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1 COOPERATIVE CONSERVATION LISTENING SESSION

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Horizon Convention Center

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401 South High Street

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Muncie, Indiana 47308

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August 26, 2006

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10:00 a.m.

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24

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0002

1

## I N D E X

2

Introductions and Opening Comments Page

3

4

David Case . . . . . 4

Lynn Scarlett. . . . . 9

5

Dale Hall. . . . . 15

Ken Brunswick. . . . . 18

6

7

Comments

8

Sheryl Myers . . . . . 25

Allan Noe. . . . . 28

9

Dr. Jasper Lament. . . . . 31

Stephen Robinson . . . . . 33

10

Jay Dowd . . . . . 37

Barry Banks. . . . . 39

11

Richard Huyck. . . . . 41

Rick Lopez . . . . . 44

12

John Hassell . . . . . 47

Don VanMeter . . . . . 50

13

Lynn Dennis. . . . . 52

Holly Chaille. . . . . 54

14

John Bundy . . . . . 56

Hugh Brown . . . . . 59

15

16

Questions and Answers and Additional Comments

17

Stephen Robinson . . . . . 61

Lynn Scarlett. . . . . 62

18

Dale Hall. . . . . 65

19

Barry Banks. . . . . 67

	Lynn Scarlett. . . . .	68
20	Dale Hall. . . . .	70
21	Kendra Fitzwater . . . . .	72
	Dale Hall. . . . .	72
22	Lynn Scarlett. . . . .	73
23	Dr. Jasper Lament. . . . .	74
	Lynn Scarlett. . . . .	75
24	Dale Hall. . . . .	76
	Lynn Scarlett. . . . .	78
25		
0003		
1	Questions and Answers and Additional Comments (Continued)	
2		Page
3		
	Amy Sharp. . . . .	80
4		
	John Bundy . . . . .	81
5	Lynn Scarlett. . . . .	82
6	John Hassell . . . . .	83
	Lynn Scarlett. . . . .	86
7	Dale Hall. . . . .	88
8	Barry Banks. . . . .	91
	Dale Hall. . . . .	92
9		
	Kendra Fitzwater . . . . .	93
10	Lynn Scarlett. . . . .	94
	Dale Hall. . . . .	95
11		
	Dave Clamme. . . . .	95
12	Lynn Scarlett. . . . .	96
	Dale Hall. . . . .	100
13		
	Kari Evans . . . . .	101
14		
15	Closing Comments	
16	David Case. . . . .	103
	Lynn Scarlett . . . . .	103
17	Dale Hall . . . . .	106

0004

1 August 26, 2006  
2 10:00 a.m.

3  
4 MR. CASE: Welcome to the seventh of 24  
5 listening sessions on cooperative conservation. It's  
6 a pleasure to have you here. My name is Dave Case  
7 and I'll be the moderator for the session today. I'm  
8 joined on the podium on my left by the Director of

9 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Dale Hall, and  
10 Deputy Secretary of Interior, Lynn Scarlett. Also,  
11 Tavi Fraga. She is the court reporter, and we'll  
12 talk more about Tavi in just a minute. Also, sign  
13 interpreters Tim Harold and Tammy Osborne will be  
14 helping, as well.

15 I'm honored to introduce Craig Priebe. He's  
16 accompanied by Barbara Briner-Jones. And they are  
17 going to sing and play our National Anthem.

18 (National Anthem Played.)

19 MR. CASE: Thank you. That was wonderful.  
20 Thank you. I'd like to start by giving you a quick  
21 overview of what we're going to do here at the  
22 listening session today. We're going to make some  
23 brief introductions, have a few comments from the  
24 podium, a brief presentation, and then we're going to  
25 get right into the purpose of the meeting, which is

0005

1 to listen to your comments on cooperative  
2 conservation.

3 We're going to have a little bit of modification  
4 from some of the other meetings. As I mentioned,  
5 this is the seventh meeting. One of the challenges  
6 with the meetings is we want to accommodate as many

7 people as possible to get a chance to speak and give  
8 everyone a fair chance. So I'll talk a little bit  
9 about the modifications, but the first process we're  
10 going to use after we get through the brief  
11 presentations, as you came in, you all received a  
12 card, and on that card is a number.

13 We will just ask, starting with No. 1, if you  
14 would come up to the microphone here. If you could  
15 state your name, how you spell your last name. As I  
16 mentioned, we do have a court reporter and we are  
17 going to capture all the comments that are said. But  
18 if you aren't comfortable coming up to the  
19 microphone, that's okay. You can submit your  
20 comments in writing. On that card there is listed  
21 there a website address that you can go to the  
22 website address to submit comments. You can fax them  
23 or you can mail them the old-fashioned way by snail  
24 mail.

25 I would encourage you that if you want to submit

0006

1 comments, it's real helpful if we can get an  
2 electronic copy. So you have that opportunity, and  
3 if you've got written comments and you want to submit  
4 those formally, you can just do that on the website.  
5 As I mentioned, I do ask you to state and spell your  
6 last name so we can get that correct in the record,  
7 and if you represent an organization, who that  
8 organization is.

9 We're going to have about -- we're going to give  
10 everybody three minutes at the microphone. I'll show  
11 a little card that says that your three minutes are  
12 up, and then you'll have 30 more seconds to finish

13 up. And I do apologize in advance. My job is to  
14 give everyone a fair chance to get up, and I do  
15 apologize in advance if I have to interrupt. If  
16 you're going to read your comments, if you'd just  
17 look up every once in a while. That way you can see  
18 me waving if we do get close on time so I don't have  
19 to interrupt you.

20 As I said, my job is to keep everything moving  
21 along. Second is to keep us on topic. We don't  
22 often get the chance to sit before folks like this,  
23 and there will be lots of things you might want to  
24 talk about, but we're really trying to focus on  
25 cooperative conservation. And we'll hear a

0007

1 presentation in a minute that will kind of set the  
2 stage for what cooperative conservation -- kind of  
3 give us the vision of what cooperative conservation  
4 is.

5 What we're going to do is we've got a break  
6 scheduled for 12:00, and we may possibly get there  
7 even before that. What Deputy Secretary Scarlett  
8 and Director Hall have suggested is that given that  
9 we don't have a large crowd, after the break come  
10 back and maybe have more of a question and answer  
11 kind of discussion. So if you hear anything come up  
12 during the presentations or during your comments and  
13 you have questions that you would like to present, we  
14 can come back after the break and spend a few minutes  
15 with them. So it's a great opportunity. Two  
16 benefits of not having a large crowd is we have  
17 plenty of space and we have some time to try some  
18 different techniques, so that's a great opportunity.

19 I'd like to take just a minute to recognize a  
20 few of the people that are here in the audience.  
21 Everybody is important, but these are extra special  
22 guests. First, from Governor Mitch Daniels' office,  
23 the Director of the Department of Natural Resources,  
24 Kyle Hupfer; Kari Evans, the Natural Resources Policy  
25 Director for the Department of Natural Resources; Ron

0008

1 McAhron, the Deputy Director of the Department of  
2 Natural Resources; Jim Stewart from the U.S.  
3 Geological Survey. Jim is the Director of the  
4 Indiana Water Resources Center -- the Indiana Water  
5 Science Center. I'm sorry. Amy Sharp is the  
6 Outreach Coordinator for the Army Corps of Engineers.  
7 Nicole Hawking from Congressman Pence's office; the  
8 Regional Director from the Indianapolis regional  
9 office of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Robyn  
10 Thorson; the Assistant Regional Director, Wendy  
11 Weber, from the Indianapolis office of Fish and  
12 Wildlife Service; and the Field Supervisor from the  
13 Fish and Wildlife Service office in Bloomington,  
14 Indiana, Scott Pruitt.

15 Last and certainly not least, the group that  
16 you're seeing coming up before you. At each of the  
17 sessions, we've tried to make sure that we all kept

18 our orientation by thinking about the future of  
19 conservation. These folks represent the future of  
20 conservation. They're from what's call Venturing  
21 Crew 009. And they were able to name themselves and  
22 they told me it's not Venturing Crew 9. It's 009,  
23 which happens to be the year that they will all  
24 graduate from high school, '09.

25 Venturing Crew is part of the Boy Scouts of  
0009

1 America, but obviously it does include both boys and  
2 girls. And this group is sponsored by the Randolph  
3 County Solid Waste Management District, which is in  
4 Winchester, Indiana, which is just east of Muncie  
5 towards the Ohio line. They range in age from 15 to  
6 16. They've got a long list of really neat things  
7 they're doing, including developing a trail that  
8 identifies all 50 trees that are found in Indiana.  
9 They do a lot of hands-on work on recycling types of  
10 things.

11 I would point out that there's one member here,  
12 Quentin Mullen, who received a William T. -- Quentin,  
13 if you could raise your hand. This whole group has  
14 done lots of neat things, but Quentin in particular,  
15 he won the William T. Hornaday silver medal for  
16 distinguished service in natural resources.  
17 Interestingly, there were only eight of those medals  
18 given out this year nationwide and there's only been  
19 about a thousand since 1914. So we'd like to  
20 recognize this group and their good work. Thank you.  
21 (Applause.)

22 MR. CASE: Okay. It's my great, great pleasure  
23 to introduce and call to the podium Deputy Secretary  
24 of Interior, Lynn Scarlett.

25 MS. SCARLETT: Thanks, David. Good morning. I  
0010

1 am really delighted to be here and especially  
2 appreciate all of you coming out on your Saturday  
3 morning. I know if your Saturday mornings are  
4 anything like mine, you have plenty of other things  
5 to do than sit in a room like this and have this sort  
6 of discussion. But I'm really pleased that you're  
7 here. I especially would like to thank those who  
8 performed the National Anthem for us. That was  
9 incredibly beautifully done and it always inspires me  
10 to hear how well others can sing the National Anthem.

11 And, of course, it's really a special delight to  
12 have the folks here, the students, I believe from  
13 Winchester High School. Did I get that right? They  
14 talked to me a little bit earlier this morning about  
15 their project. They will be taking all 50 native  
16 tree species and planting them at a conservation  
17 center that they have so that we can at one point or  
18 some point perhaps walk amidst that grove that  
19 represents the entire tree portfolio for the State of  
20 Indiana. So thank you for your leadership and we  
21 will anticipate that you will be our conservation  
22 leaders for this century.

23 I'd also especially again like to thank all of  
24 you who are here taking your time out. We want to  
25 hear your thoughts. This is an open dialogue. We

0011

1 are here to listen primarily. We have no outcome in  
2 mind. What we want to do is hear what you have to  
3 say, take that back, absorb that, set our priorities  
4 based on some of the things that you bring forward.  
5 A year ago I had the chance to visit Indiana up  
6 north. Went to the Grand Calumet River right in the  
7 heart of industrial Indiana. And as many of you  
8 know, that's a century-old or two-century-old site of  
9 industrial activity. Many industrial challenges with  
10 contaminants and pollution, stream bank  
11 transformation and so forth. And yet there you have  
12 at the Grand Calumet underway a project that really  
13 exemplifies cooperative conservation. You have local  
14 companies, you have conservation groups, you have  
15 federal agencies, state agencies, all working in  
16 partnership to re-create a wetland along that Grand  
17 Calumet River, to also dredge the river and remove  
18 sediments and contaminants, restore some of the  
19 stream bank configurations so that once again that  
20 river will be able to flow in a more natural setting.

21 That to me exemplifies one of so many thousands  
22 of examples of cooperative conservation, not only  
23 here in Indiana, but across this nation. We have the  
24 great opportunity in the Interior Department really  
25 to see kind of a bird's-eye view of the efflorescence

0012

1 of these partnerships, these partnerships that  
2 exemplify what Aldo Leopold some 50 years ago as a  
3 brave conservationist envisioned as a nation of  
4 citizen stewards. Conservation that occurs across  
5 land ownerships, through partnerships, in our  
6 backyards, in our communities, and at a national  
7 scale.

8 What's important about these efforts? One, they  
9 make all Americans citizen stewards. Two, they tap  
10 the local insights, the on-the-ground wisdom that  
11 comes from living in a place, really knowing the  
12 textures of that place, the on-the-ground details of  
13 that place that helps, therefore, to pinpoint the  
14 possible and helps to define what's doable in terms  
15 of conservation. They also inspire innovation. When  
16 you tap the ideas of thousands of folks, instead of  
17 just what we might think of in Washington, you get  
18 creative solutions to challenges that might not  
19 otherwise surface.

20 Now, as this cooperative conservation emerges  
21 and writes itself across the landscape, we find  
22 ourselves now at something of a crossroads. We at  
23 the Interior Department try to nurture these efforts.  
24 We've done so by increasing our cooperative  
25 conservation grants by some 50 percent since 2002,

0013

1 providing funds so that we can work with ranchers,

2 with farmers, with other landowners, with private and  
3 nonprofit organizations to achieve other conservation  
4 goals.

5 So we've used those dollars and those increases  
6 in funds to help give us the wherewithal to encourage  
7 cooperative conservation, but at this crossroads,  
8 we're asking ourselves what can we do better, what  
9 can we do differently, can we do more to nurture  
10 these efforts. And that's why we're here and at 23  
11 other locations across this nation trying to tap your  
12 ideas, your insights, what's working well, what might  
13 we do better, are there new tools that we can put  
14 into our tool kit to further nurture these efforts.

15 We're here to listen. We want to hear, for  
16 example, your thoughts on how we can enhance wildlife  
17 habitat and other conservation outcomes through both  
18 regulatory and voluntary programs. We want to get  
19 your thoughts on how we can improve cooperative  
20 efforts with states, with tribes, with local  
21 communities in the application of our environmental  
22 and conservation laws. Can we partner better with  
23 the states, more with tribes, more with citizens,  
24 conservation groups and others? How can we work  
25 cooperatively with businesses, with landowners, with

0014

1 conservation groups? Can we better reflect the  
2 interests and concerns of people who live on the  
3 ground in communities, who work with, know, and  
4 utilize land, water, and other resources? What about  
5 the interests and concerns of tribes, states, local  
6 organizations, nonprofit groups? How can we better  
7 utilize science as we make our decisions? How can we  
8 utilize science to better inform the decisions so  
9 that they will be robust and enduring and achieve  
10 on-the-ground results?

11 I am really pleased to be here today with my  
12 colleague, Dale Hall. Dale is the Director of the  
13 Fish and Wildlife Service. As many of you know, the  
14 Service oversees some 545 wildlife refuges across the  
15 nation, 95 million acres, some of them right here in  
16 Indiana. They also have the lead responsibility at  
17 the federal level for overseeing implementation of  
18 the Endangered Species Act and ensuring that the  
19 critters of this nation, the flora, and the fauna  
20 survive now and into the future.

21 So I'd like to turn it over for Dale to make a  
22 few remarks, but then we want to turn the show over  
23 to you so we can hear your ideas and thoughts. Thank  
24 you very much.

25 (Applause.)

0015

1 MR. HALL: Thank you. It really is a pleasure  
2 for me to be here in Indiana with you this morning.  
3 And I just drove across from Indianapolis yesterday  
4 just admiring the landscape and what a beautiful  
5 place this is. I won't add an awful lot to what Lynn

6 has said except for my, you know, a little more  
7 narrow perspective in the Fish and Wildlife Service.

8 I think, as a natural resource manager, we live  
9 in the world of reality. And reality is trying to  
10 figure out what is real, what exists, and how can we  
11 work with that. And when you look at the fact that  
12 70 percent of all Fish and Wildlife Service habitat  
13 in the United States is in private hands, and you  
14 look at the fact that over 80 percent of all  
15 threatened and endangered species in the United  
16 States depend on those private lands, and you look at  
17 the fact that we have to work together if we're going  
18 to get this done, and the landowner has to be left  
19 standing when it's over or we have failed in whatever  
20 endeavor we're working on, then I think that we need  
21 to reach out and work harder trying to understand how  
22 we can use these other tools.

23 Regulation has a place. There is no question  
24 about that. But we need to recognize what regulation  
25 does and what it doesn't do. If we look at the

0016

1 Endangered Species Act as an example, regulation can  
2 only keep things from worsening. That's the best  
3 that we can do with it. But when you have a species  
4 that you have listed as either being threatened in  
5 the future with extinction or threatened today with  
6 extinction, the status quo is not good enough. Those  
7 of us that care about the natural resources -- and  
8 you wouldn't be here if you didn't -- that's not good  
9 enough. We want improvements. And so the only  
10 improvements we can get are through voluntary  
11 actions.

12 And in order to get voluntary actions, we have  
13 to build trust, we have to keep our word, we have to  
14 work with the people, and we have to respect the  
15 people that are willing to do these things, the  
16 private landowners, the state game and fish agencies,  
17 the federal agencies that work with us, everyone  
18 across the landscape. And a good comparison is  
19 critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act,  
20 which our level, our measuring stick that we look at,  
21 is if you adversely modify or destroy it.

22 But if you look at our partners for the Fish and  
23 Wildlife program, every acre that's enrolled in that  
24 is being improved voluntarily by a landowner that  
25 cares. And I've never met a farmer or a rancher or

0017

1 any other landowner that had wild habitat on the  
2 property that didn't want a good diversity of  
3 species. They just don't want to be punished for  
4 making sure that happens.

5 So what we're trying to do is marry those two  
6 aspects of the law. One that says, All right, we  
7 have to make sure that if people would undermine what  
8 the other good citizens are doing, that there is a  
9 rule there that makes sure that that doesn't happen.  
10 But we also need to expand much for what we have not



11 done very well over the last 30 years. And that's  
12 expand those partnership efforts, those volunteer  
13 efforts, those things that take it from the status  
14 quo forward instead of just keeping it from going  
15 backward.

16 So I really do appreciate being here with you  
17 this morning. I look forward to these young people  
18 when they inherit from us the role of being the  
19 conservation leaders, to be able to say we made it  
20 better than we found it. And I think that's all of  
21 our responsibility and we can't do it alone. It's  
22 that simple. And we depend on you and the natural  
23 resources depend on you and future generations depend  
24 on you. So we will look forward to hearing your  
25 ideas on how we can do that better. So thanks for

0018

1 coming this morning and it really is a pleasure to be  
2 here with you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. CASE: Thank you, Dale. Thank you, Lynn.  
5 At each of these listening sessions, we've tried to  
6 start off with a presentation or two on local  
7 projects that capture the spirit of cooperative  
8 conservation. A brief presentation right now is  
9 going to be from Ken Brunswick. Ken is the wetlands  
10 coordinator for the Friends of the Limberlost. He is  
11 also the regional ecologist for the Division of  
12 Nature Preserves for the Indiana Department of  
13 Natural Resources.

14 And Ken, as he'll explain when he explains  
15 Limberlost, has been involved in this project for a  
16 long time. I've had the great pleasure of knowing  
17 Ken for ten years, or more than that, I guess, now.  
18 And both Ken and the Friends of the Limberlost have  
19 been recognized in Indiana regionally and nationally  
20 for their conservation work. It's a pleasure to  
21 introduce Ken Brunswick.

22 MR. BRUNSWICK: Thank you, Dave. How do you go  
23 from zero acres in 1993 to 1,391 acres that we have  
24 today? It takes a lot of different organizations, a  
25 lot of individuals. It takes state, it takes

0019

1 federal, it takes local, and also a lot of the  
2 individual partners. I started making a list and I  
3 know I don't have them all listed. I'm not going to  
4 read them all, but we worked with at least ten  
5 federal programs and agencies, six state, seven local  
6 government. That included the drainage board of two  
7 different counties. We actually got some funding to  
8 replace tile, nonperforated tile for the perforated,  
9 so we could restore some of these areas. At least 18  
10 nongovernmental organizations, ten large individual  
11 donations. When I say large, I mean we're talking  
12 1,000 to 10,000 dollars from individuals.

13 And then there are the individual Foot of Swamp.

14 We put together locally back in '93 and came out with

15 a brochure, the Limberlost Swamp Remembered, and we  
16 sold honorary ownerships of one square foot of the  
17 Limberlost Swamp that we were going to restore for  
18 \$10 a square foot. So that was how we raised some  
19 funds locally. And at this point, we've got over 600  
20 of those Foot of Swamp that were sold. Some as much  
21 as \$1,000 donations came in for that funding. And  
22 then there are the memberships of Friends of the  
23 Limberlost and Limberlost Swamp Remembered.  
24 Currently we have 207 active members in the  
25 organization.

0020

1 Well, to answer that question, how do you put  
2 this all together, when we began with nothing, no  
3 acres, it took the Jay County Soil and Water  
4 Conservation District, and I was a supervisor on  
5 there at that time, and we put together a Fish and  
6 Wildlife Foundation fund or a grant we applied for.  
7 And I believe we put \$500 in and they returned 750 to  
8 us. So that was the actual beginning of the  
9 restoration and survey. And I was hired to do the  
10 survey work, and I worked with Forest Clark, U.S.  
11 Fish and Wildlife Service, and what we did, we  
12 started surveying properties in Jay County. That was  
13 prior to the Limberlost Swamp Remembered project  
14 actually getting started.

15 At the time we started meeting in Geneva, it was  
16 ACRES Land Trust, Jay County Soil and Water  
17 Conservation District, the Indiana Department of  
18 Natural Resources, the museums and historic sites,  
19 because the Limberlost state historic site where Gene  
20 Stratton-Porter got her start is right there. This  
21 is the Limberlost she spoke about. And the other was  
22 ACRES Land Trust. So we brought -- those four  
23 organizations actually sat in and got this going, the  
24 Limberlost Swamp Remembered, in 1993. We went public  
25 in June.

0021

1 And some of the first areas we surveyed, Forest  
2 and I would go over here to the Reed Enterprises,  
3 which now it's contiguous to the Loblolly Marsh  
4 Wetland Preserve, and we would survey these sites.  
5 These landowners said come in and restore anything  
6 you can on our 80-acre farm. So we went in and we  
7 restored this land. And this is about two years  
8 after it was restored and that's taken during a  
9 snowfall that year late spring. But we had lots of  
10 mallards and waterfowl using it immediately.

11 Well, during that restoration of this site,  
12 usually we had a little time left over at the end of  
13 the day. And Forest and I would go over to the  
14 Loblolly Marsh and we'd do some surveying and  
15 checking some things out. So that's how we actually  
16 got this rolling then. And in 1996, we purchased two  
17 sites, and that was using wetland reserve funds. The  
18 landowners -- all these landowners signed their land  
19 up into the Wetland Reserve Program, every one of

20 these four parcels.

21 The first one to get accepted was the Jim  
22 Fiechter area, which is this one. And this 45 acres  
23 was not going to make it. We were told it will never  
24 get in. It's way too far down on the list. So we  
25 turned to ACRES Land Trust. They knew the people who

0022

1 could give us the funding to make up for the WRP. So  
2 in '96, we ended up buying those two with the  
3 combination of WRP, Ropchan Foundation, M.E. Raker  
4 Foundation, and the largest contributor was the  
5 Indiana Heritage Trust. And know I saw quite a few  
6 of those out there and we thank you for your  
7 donations, for helping us get these areas.

8 So in 1997, the Leo Homan property, three  
9 80-acre parcels, was finally accepted into the  
10 Wetland Reserve Program. And then later, in 2004, we  
11 added the Hiday (phonetic) property. This is what  
12 the -- wrong one. This is what the farmers were  
13 dealing with in that area. This is the Loblolly  
14 Marsh. The Fiechter area is back there and that  
15 45-acre parcel is right here. And I was a farmer at  
16 this time. I milked cows and, you know, these were  
17 my neighbors who were losing crops on this land.  
18 And, in fact, I lost some crops on some rented land.

19 And after seeing it for a number of years, I  
20 kept wondering why someone wasn't doing something  
21 about this. And finally we developed that Limberlost  
22 Swamp Remembered project and started the restoration.  
23 This is the Leo Homan property. This looks like a  
24 good crop over here of Sudex. That year he lost a  
25 corn crop and then he put beans in it. He always

0023

1 planted his corn so he had the opportunity to put  
2 soybeans in. He didn't use a herbicide that would  
3 hurt the soybeans, knowing that he might lose the  
4 corn crop. Well, he put soybeans in. He lost the  
5 soybean crop, so he put Sudex in and he was able to  
6 get a crop off of it that way.

7 That's what he faced after an all-night rain.  
8 He lost a lot of that hay off of that property.  
9 Well, we liked that land. Once we started purchasing  
10 it, this is what it restored to the following year  
11 after our purchase. So we bought the land and  
12 restored it, and you see all the great blue heron on  
13 there and American egrets were on there. Leo and  
14 Diane, they received an award -- and they lived in  
15 Mercer County, Ohio. They received an award for  
16 their actual conservation of this land.

17 And this is a picture taken about three years  
18 ago. And one thing you want to see, you see the  
19 smiles on their face? Those are happy farmers  
20 because they got rid of that land. We were there for  
21 them and it took all these organizations and all  
22 these programs in order to put this together. If it  
23 hadn't been for those ten federal and all those state  
24 organizations that helped, we would not have been

25 able to do that.

0024

1 The Hiday property, you can see, lost the corn  
2 in there. You see the level of the water in his  
3 cornfield. Not good. And he's a neighbor right  
4 across the road from where I lived. And I worked  
5 with my neighbors on this project and that was the  
6 great thing. We were able to really, really work  
7 well together on this. There we go.  
8 Limberlost Swamp Wetland Preserve. This is up  
9 near Geneva. These are the properties we restored up  
10 there. And I'm not going to go through a lot of  
11 them. You see we started in 1998 right up in here.  
12 So after we purchased the Loblolly Marsh, Marvin Hart  
13 came to me and said, "Hey, Ken, I want to get rid of  
14 my land, too." So we started purchasing up here in  
15 Geneva.  
16 State historic site is right over here. So '98,  
17 '99, and then we just continued to purchase that Jay  
18 County land. And it's all managed right now with the  
19 Department of Natural Resources Division of Nature  
20 Preserves. And that's where really a lot of help  
21 comes in. We've got a WRP grant where we were able  
22 to -- a WREP grant where we were able to remove  
23 invasives and actually put the native plants on.  
24 So thank you and good luck with your projects in  
25 the future.

0025

1 (Applause.)  
2 MR. CASE: Thank you. Ten minutes or so doesn't  
3 do justice to the project and all the things you've  
4 done, and we appreciate you taking the time to be  
5 here. Now is the time to take your comments. As I  
6 mentioned, when you came in, you got a card with a  
7 number on it. We're just going to start with No. 1.  
8 Might want to turn the microphone around there, but  
9 we'll start with No. 1 and just ask you, if you  
10 could, to state your name and spell your last name  
11 for us, the organization you represent, if you  
12 represent one.  
13 We again encourage you that if there's a -- if  
14 you want to make comments, but you can't do that in  
15 three minutes or you would prefer to do it in  
16 writing, you can send it in via mail, via fax, or go  
17 to the website that's on that address card. I do  
18 again apologize if I have to give you the signal.  
19 I'll show you a little card when you have 30 seconds  
20 left and let you know when your time is up. If you  
21 could turn the microphone so you're facing this way.  
22 There you go. Number 1.

23 MS. MYERS: We are honored that you came to  
24 Muncie, Indiana, to be with us. It's the first time  
25 I'm aware of a visit from Washington to Muncie. We

0026

1 welcome you. My name is Sheryl Myers, S-H-E-R-Y-L,  
2 M-Y-E-R-S. I represent several groups,  
3 not-for-profits, so I'm going to make some scattered,

4 across-the-board comments to you this morning. I'd  
5 like to speak as a public school teacher of 32 years  
6 that one partnership I would really like to see is  
7 some federal programs that utilize our bright young  
8 minds to do research in your local areas.

9 And I was thinking in particular about the  
10 problem of global warming that's very real that's  
11 facing us all. One thing that our young people can  
12 do is population counts of species that are  
13 climate-sensitive. I think of a mockingbird. Right  
14 here we're on the northernmost range -- we're at the  
15 top of the range for mockingbirds. People could keep  
16 track of species that are moving. I know dragonfly  
17 species are moving measurably. So that's one area  
18 I'd like to see more grant funding programs for  
19 research at the high school and college level.

20 Totally changing directions, I also represent a  
21 small group called The Killbuck Concerned Citizens.  
22 We have been fighting a landfill, a very ill-advised  
23 landfill, in Madison County for the last 27 years.  
24 The determination will be made in court this year,  
25 but it's not going to be based on the merits of this

0027

1 case. It's going to be based on some legal  
2 technicalities. What we need is some federal help  
3 here. We're being held hostage by small, easily  
4 influenced local groups of people who don't have a  
5 big picture.

6 This landfill would be on the edge of the  
7 aquifer that feeds the -- that gives the drinking  
8 water to our entire community. It's also right  
9 across the street from an elementary school. It's  
10 also three miles from our municipal airport. And if  
11 it weren't for this small group of determined  
12 citizens, there would already be an operating  
13 landfill there, a massive landfill. This is what the  
14 plan is.

15 There should be a vehicle to tap into the U.S.  
16 Geological Survey, for example, to help us determine  
17 that our water supply is safe. And I'm concerned  
18 about a landfill liner actually doing the job when  
19 our drinking water is at stake. I trust a landfill  
20 liner about as much as a condom and it concerns  
21 me deeply.

22 My third point has to do with respecting  
23 legislation that's already on the books. I'm looking  
24 at the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I see this,  
25 as a science teacher, as a wilderness that needs to

0028

1 stay intact and not be sacrificed for a small amount  
2 of oil. I'm concerned as a person in the country  
3 from Indiana about what happens in the Arctic. I  
4 think it was very clear in the Wilderness Act of 1972  
5 that that should be respected. And corporate  
6 interests seem to be holding more sway than the  
7 original intent of the legislators on that. Is my  
8 three minutes over? Probably. Thank you very much

9 and welcome.

10 MR. CASE: Thank you. Number 2.

11 MR. NOE: Morning. My name is Allan Noe,  
12 A-L-L-A-N, N-O-E. I appreciate the opportunity to be  
13 here today to speak with you about some activities  
14 that my organization has underway. I represent an  
15 organization and national trade association called  
16 CropLife America. We represent the manufacturers and  
17 distributors of pesticides that are used in  
18 production agriculture and public health protection.  
19 Some of you would recognize our members, which are  
20 kind of household names, DuPont, Dow, Monsanto, etc.

21 Today I wanted to mention a couple of  
22 cooperative conservation projects that we're engaged  
23 in that we're quite proud of. One is a source water  
24 protection initiative that we have undertaken with  
25 a -- in a sense, a nontraditional ally of ours, a

0029

1 group called ASIWPCA, which stands for the  
2 Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution  
3 Control Administrators. What we were looking for is  
4 ways to document that our customers' customers, which  
5 are the nation's farmers, are employing voluntary  
6 incentive measures and best management practices to  
7 protect waterways based upon their farming operations  
8 and ranging operations.

9 We engaged in this program with the growers that  
10 we call really the original stewards of the soil to  
11 look at paired watersheds, one of which is in the  
12 Fort Wayne area, where we work with growers on one of  
13 the streams to engage in best management practices  
14 and let the growers on the other stream just do their  
15 normal thing, the idea being, after a three- to  
16 five-year effort, that we have data that we can  
17 document that these BMP's, as we call them, the best  
18 management practices, and voluntary measures do play  
19 a role in conservation technology.

20 On this we've worked with the Natural Resource  
21 Conservation Service and the Ag Research Service that  
22 donated in kind support. Also with the U.S.  
23 Geological Service in terms of monitoring the  
24 operations. Data from this will be available this  
25 summer and hopefully next year, as well.

0030

1 Another program, the second one I wanted to  
2 mention, was a unique partnership we have with Ducks  
3 Unlimited, one of the leading conservation  
4 organizations in the United States and Canada. We  
5 have six of our member companies that have  
6 contributed product in kind to a habitat restoration  
7 effort that we have undertaken with D.U. And using  
8 their auspices and their connections with Fish and  
9 Wildlife and refuge managers across the country,  
10 we've engaged in a number of activities that  
11 demonstrate that conservation and restoration serve  
12 not only waterfowl and wildlife, but actually you and  
13 I in our daily endeavors, as well, from agriculture

14 to recreational water sports to hunting and fishing,  
15 bird-watching, so on and so forth.

16 My request today, in a sense -- I've asked my  
17 colleague from Ducks Unlimited to follow up with me  
18 to talk about some of the specific projects, but from  
19 our standpoint at CropLife, we're very pleased with  
20 these partnerships and proud that our members have  
21 stepped up and joined in this voluntary arrangement  
22 with D.U. And the request I would make is that we,  
23 as a regulated community coming to you as  
24 policymakers on the national level and regulators of  
25 our industry, recognize the benefits that pesticides

0031

1 play not only in providing a safe and affordable food  
2 supply, but also in contributing to the conservation  
3 of our environment. Thank you very much.

4 MR. CASE: Thank you. Number 3.

5 DR. LAMENT: Good morning. I'm Dr. Jasper  
6 Lament, J-A-S-P-E-R, L-A-M-E-N-T. And I'm a  
7 biologist at Ducks Unlimited. Cooperative  
8 conservation is Ducks Unlimited's business model.  
9 Private landowners are the key to waterfowl  
10 conservation since the vast majority of America's  
11 wetlands are privately owned. We simply cannot  
12 attain our conservation goals without farmers and  
13 ranchers. We work with them every day, and I'll talk  
14 about a few examples.

15 CropLife America is our partner in restoring  
16 thousands of acres of wildlife habitat across the  
17 country, and in just two years, member companies have  
18 donated over \$800,000 of their products. Here in  
19 Indiana, CropLife America recently donated herbicide  
20 to help establish native grasses on private lands in  
21 northeastern Indiana. For over six years, Ducks  
22 Unlimited, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,  
23 Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, Indiana DNR,  
24 Pheasants Forever, and hundreds of private landowners  
25 have worked together to restore habitat in a region

0032

1 once dotted with many small wetlands and vast  
2 grasslands. Together we're planting native  
3 vegetation and we're restoring important nesting  
4 habitat for waterfowl, pheasants, quail, and  
5 songbirds.

6 In the Dakotas, CropLife support provides  
7 incentives to farmers to incorporate  
8 waterfowl-friendly winter cereal crops into their  
9 crop rotations. By doing this, they can boost their  
10 yield of wheat and ducks since winter wheat hatches  
11 20 times as many ducks as spring wheat crops, a  
12 win-win for agriculture and life.

13 Our partnership has also provided thousands of  
14 gallons of herbicide to National Wildlife Refuges  
15 like Stone Lakes, Ruby Lake, and Willapa Bay. At  
16 Willapa Bay, herbicide is essential for control of  
17 invasive plants and restoring that ecosystem. It  
18 benefits hundreds of thousands of shorebirds that

19 migrate to the estuary each year, waterfowl, as well  
20 as oyster farmers, hunters, and birders.

21 Department of Interior programs like NAWCA  
22 provide crucial funding for cooperative conservation.  
23 A recent NAWCA grant to Ducks Unlimited helped  
24 conserve 8,000 acres in Greene County, Indiana.  
25 Expanding NAWCA funding is essential to meet the

0033

1 President's goal to restore, improve, and protect 3  
2 million acres of wetlands by 2009.

3 I'd like to highlight two great conservation  
4 programs that benefit private lands. CRP adds over  
5 2 million ducks each year to our magnificent fall  
6 migration. No USDA program in history has done more  
7 for landscape-level conservation of soil, water, and  
8 wildlife, while providing producers with stable and  
9 diversified income.

10 The Wetlands Reserve Program is another great  
11 success, helping farmers withdraw marginal croplands  
12 from production. Demands from landowners is  
13 fantastic, exceeding funding by at least a 3 to 1  
14 margin, so we suggest an annual allocation of at  
15 least 250,000 acres to the Wetlands Reserve Program.

16 We're proud of our partnership with farmers and  
17 ranchers. And thanks to the Departments of Interior  
18 and Agriculture for providing landowner-friendly  
19 conservation programs. We're looking forward in the  
20 future to working together to conserve waterfowl  
21 habitat across Indiana and the United States.

22 MR. CASE: Thank you. Number 4.

23 MR. ROBINSON: Good morning. Say good morning.  
24 Do you guys remember this part? There you go. My  
25 name is Stephen, S-T-E-P-H-E-N, Robinson,

0034

1 R-O-B-I-N-S-O-N. And I own a Nu-Wool Insulation  
2 company which is recycling cellulose product, getting  
3 about 140 tons of paper out of landfills every day.  
4 And I also own a construction company, R.E.  
5 Construction & Maintenance Services in New Castle,  
6 Indiana. I represent -- strangely enough, I am on a  
7 local conservation group called the Red-tail  
8 Conservancy. Sheryl is one of our speakers. And I  
9 am the vice president of the Indiana Builders  
10 Association, so I have a really interesting  
11 perspective on cooperative conservation. So I'll  
12 start now.

13 I'm here on behalf of the National Association  
14 of Home Builders, the Indiana Builders Association,  
15 and Muncie Home Builders. I appreciate this  
16 opportunity to comment on cooperative conservation  
17 and ways this Administration can facilitate better  
18 working relationships between federal agencies and  
19 private landowners for the purpose of promoting  
20 conservation.

21 For homebuilders and developers, any discussion  
22 of cooperative conservation must begin with a full  
23 understanding of the compliance requirements



24 established by the existing federal and environmental  
25 statutes and regulations. Chief among these laws and  
0035

1 regulations are the ESA, Endangered Species Act,  
2 designed to promote species and their habitat,  
3 protect species and their habitat, and the Clean  
4 Water Act, which protects water quality and wetlands.

5 Since the homebuilding industry must operate  
6 under and within these complex federal and state  
7 regulatory requirements, any opportunity this  
8 Administration has to leverage the tremendous  
9 resources of this nation's homebuilders towards the  
10 goals of cooperative conservation must be in context  
11 with existing federal regulatory programs that  
12 homebuilders, developers, and other private property  
13 owners currently operate under.

14 Unfortunately, the regulatory framework laid out  
15 by these statutes and programs is oftentimes awkward  
16 and rudimentary and the regulations themselves are  
17 oftentimes the largest impediments to cooperative  
18 conservation. Throughout the history of these  
19 statutes, there's been little, if any, intent to  
20 actively encourage landowner cooperation. Thus  
21 providing the proactive steps needed to protect both  
22 environmental quality and species and their habitat  
23 is often at odds with existing regulatory  
24 requirements.

25 Therefore, enhancing cooperative conservation  
0036

1 first requires addressing arcane, outdated,  
2 ineffective, and inefficient regulatory provisions,  
3 improving upon them, and a strong commitment needs to  
4 be made to remove barriers to ensure collaboration  
5 instead of conflict between the agencies and the  
6 regulated communities. While I will be submitting  
7 more detailed written comments on each of these  
8 points, I wanted to just highlight in the remaining  
9 time three key priorities the Administration can take  
10 to promote the goals of cooperative conservation of  
11 homebuilders and developers.

12 I mentioned the ESA, the Endangered Species Act.  
13 Two action items. There are a number of steps the  
14 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the NOAA Fishers  
15 can take to improve the current regulatory program.  
16 They can issue common sense standards for key  
17 regulatory terms, including a question about  
18 litigation, specifically adverse modification and  
19 jeopardy; they can establish a critical habitat  
20 guidance to ensure an open and consistent designation  
21 process that accounts for cumulative economic and  
22 social impacts of a designation, accurately assessing  
23 the biological value of the habitat of the species  
24 concerned and encourage builders and developers to  
25 participate in existing and future habitat

0037

1 conservation plans by exempting all private property  
2 enrollment in existing or pending NCD (phonetic)

3 critical habitat.

4 Under the Clean Water Act -- and this is big in  
5 Indiana; this is huge for us -- three action items.  
6 There are a number of steps that EPA and state and  
7 local authorities can take. The development of  
8 consistent federal and state enforcement policies  
9 that focuses on environmental protection rather than  
10 the permit paperwork requirements. Sometimes DAI's  
11 (phonetic) can bog you down for years.

12 MR. CASE: Just a couple more seconds.

13 MR. ROBINSON: Okay. Thank you. Remove  
14 duplicative federal permit requirements by  
15 facilitating recognition and documenting well-titled  
16 programs and develop a federal and state watershed  
17 partnership program to increase awareness of federal  
18 and state storm water regulatory requirements to  
19 provide opportunities for innovative practices to  
20 conserve natural resources. I appreciate your time  
21 today. Thank you.

22 MR. CASE: Number 5. Number 6.

23 MR. DOWD: Good morning. My name is Jay Dowd,  
24 D-O-W-D. I represent Normal City Fly Fishing Club, a  
25 little club here in Muncie, Indiana. I didn't plan

0038

1 on speaking today, so I'm going to ad-lib mine. Our  
2 club has 38 members from east-central Indiana.  
3 Probably only two-thirds of them know how to fish.  
4 The other third joined our club because of some of  
5 the conservation things that we do.

6 I got to thinking why am I here this morning.  
7 And first it's because I got an e-mail. But I got to  
8 thinking about some of the things we do in the club.  
9 We do a cleanup project here in town. And the reason  
10 we started doing it was because Phillip Douglas  
11 (phonetic) made the river look good. Charlotte Myers  
12 (phonetic) had done river cleanups over in Anderson  
13 for a long time, and Rich had done a lot with the  
14 Bureau of Water Quality.

15 Our club simply wanted to help. We have no  
16 mission or anything like that. We just want to help  
17 to conserve and keep our areas clean. We adopted the  
18 White River. In today's world, nobody has enough  
19 money to do all the projects that we want. I feel  
20 one of the things that we need to look at ten years  
21 down the road is it's going to be my kids that are  
22 going to have to step up. My kids are way more  
23 computer-literate than what I am. And I think a lot  
24 of people would volunteer if they just knew how. It  
25 would make sense to take an Internet site, that kids

0039

1 are good with, and explain to people how they can  
2 step up and volunteer. That's my suggestion.  
3 Appreciate your time.

4 MR. CASE: Thank you. Number 7. Number 8. If  
5 you're wondering, 31 cards.

6 MR. BANKS: I'm Barry Banks, founder and  
7 director of Red-tail Conservancy, a local land

8 conservation organization covering five counties that  
9 came into existence in 1999. We stand right now at  
10 1,187 acres permanently protected in east-central  
11 Indiana. I wanted to talk about three points and I  
12 might have time for the fourth.

13 You're probably aware of the recently signed  
14 Pension Bill, that a portion of that would increase  
15 the private landowner's deduction from 30 to 50  
16 percent and from five years to fifteen years, and for  
17 working lands, 100 percent federal income tax  
18 deduction. I want to, first of all, thank you as  
19 representatives of this current Administration for  
20 signing that bill. It has huge ramifications for us,  
21 understanding that it's in existence until the end of  
22 '07, so it's up to us to become busy, us in the land  
23 trust industry to come out and spread the word.

24 And as feedback from that bill, I received a  
25 phone call yesterday from an absentee landowner in

0040

1 Michigan who started talking about a typical  
2 landowner approach and typical land here. All of our  
3 wildlife areas are fragmented here. They're  
4 separated by cities and towns. This gentleman called  
5 in and wanted to protect a 20-acre woods and asked us  
6 about conservation easements, and he quoted the  
7 Pension Bill almost word for word as far as the  
8 increase. So it's already taking effect. It's up to  
9 us to run with it from here. But thank you very  
10 much. We appreciate your vote of confidence.

11 Another federal bill, the Farm Bill, as I've  
12 noticed from the Department of Agriculture, the  
13 grants for farmland protection portion of that has --  
14 is a very worthwhile project. Included in our  
15 mission is preserving, restoring, and protecting  
16 natural areas and farmland. This is Red-tail  
17 Conservancy, so -- and we do protect some farmland,  
18 but in the State of Indiana, we've had to turn back  
19 the money to the Department of Agriculture  
20 specifically because -- and the Red-tail Conservancy  
21 and I have entered into one with the landowner and  
22 worked through the process. The hang-up that we're  
23 having on that bill is that what it boils -- it's a  
24 quarter matching by the agency, by us.

25 It's just -- it's been prohibitive across the

0041

1 state. And so that's -- and I know that's a strong  
2 one and I know matching is a big part of a lot of  
3 grant programs and expanded passage of the federal  
4 monies. That's been our hang-up. We've had to turn  
5 back every dollar in the State of Indiana.

6 We know that there have been successful state  
7 initiatives where the state has had a tax levy where  
8 the state would provide that 25 percent. I think  
9 Maryland and Ohio have been very successful with  
10 that. We haven't -- those are tough things to do.  
11 And so in closing, I'll just mention very briefly one  
12 of our biggest challenges in restoring and

13 maintaining wildlife habitat is the very aggressive  
14 nonendangered species of garlic mustard that we're  
15 trying to control. Anything you could do for us in  
16 that respect would be funding. It's an expensive,  
17 labor-intensive battle that we fight every day.  
18 Thank you.

19 MR. CASE: Thank you. Number 9.

20 MR. HUYCK: Good morning. My name is Richard  
21 Huyck, H-U-Y-C-K, and I'm with the Bureau of Water  
22 Quality, which is part of the Muncie Sanitary  
23 District. We are located -- or this convention  
24 center is located close to the White River, which has  
25 seen a major turnaround in the last 30 years since

0042

1 the passage of the Clean Water Act, which gave local  
2 municipalities regulatory oversight of some of the  
3 conventional pollutants that were causing water  
4 quality issues around our industrial areas.

5 As a result of that, we have seen more than a  
6 doubling of our fish populations; we've seen the  
7 trend going from the non -- or the pollution tolerant  
8 to the pollution intolerant species of not only fish  
9 and insects and we've also seen an increase in mussel  
10 populations, which is not common across the United  
11 States. We have worked with our conventional  
12 pollutants. One pollutant that concerns me -- or a  
13 brutal pollutant that concerns me that I would like

14 to encourage more research on is our personal care  
15 and protection chemicals that are used.

16 As you know, most treatment plants for  
17 municipalities are not capable of removing these  
18 during conventional treatment processes. In a recent  
19 trip to the Washington, D.C., area, I read where the  
20 Upper Potomac River had actually had a smallmouth  
21 bass population kill where a dissection of the male  
22 species showed formation of eggs due to probably some  
23 of these products that were in the water bodies. So  
24 I would encourage more research on some of these  
25 not-so-conventional pollutants that are constantly

0043

1 being added to our environment.

2 I agree with Sheryl that education at our  
3 elementary and middle and high school level is of key  
4 importance, and not just on these so-called highly  
5 academic issues, such as the algebra and the biology,  
6 but, you know, how does this really affect our  
7 everyday lives and the future of our nation and the  
8 quality of life that we are faced with in the future.

9 I would ask that federal and state and local  
10 agencies work together in some kind of cooperative  
11 effort where we all are playing on the same field.  
12 We've noticed that there have been state projects in  
13 the Muncie area. We're an MS4 community and it  
14 seemed like storm water issues were not addressed  
15 during these projects. In other words, they were  
16 abiding by a different set of rules than we are

17 expected to abide by. And, you know, we're doing  
18 what we can to address our storm water issues and the  
19 quality of it and also the quantity of it, and we  
20 would just ask that everyone abide by the same -- or  
21 play on the same field or level the field.

22 I guess my other request would be that we look  
23 into addressing more -- maybe not regulatory, but  
24 maybe more information or more education on the  
25 people that are responsible for the drainage. As you

0044

1 can see from some of the slides, we do have some  
2 drainage issues in this part of Indiana. It's an  
3 agricultural system here and we do have excess water  
4 a lot of times of the year. And it appears from what  
5 we are finding that -- and it's well documented that  
6 sedimentation seems to be one of our major problems  
7 in our water courses and also the pollutants that are  
8 carried with the sediments that enter our rivers and  
9 our streams.

10 And the mindset, it appears to be, for many of  
11 our officials responsible for working with the  
12 landowners, etc., is that we try to get this water  
13 away from the land as fast as possible to encourage  
14 agricultural production. And maybe there's an  
15 educational or cooperative agreement that can be  
16 worked out between the State of Indiana and the local  
17 county surveyors and the other officials that make  
18 these very important decisions on a better management  
19 technique that could address not only preserving the  
20 lands for the use that it might be intended for, but  
21 also preserving the water and the future that we have  
22 for our future generations. Thank you very much.

23 MR. CASE: Thank you. Number 10. 11. 12.

24 MR. LOPEZ: Good morning. Rick Lopez,  
25 L-O-P-E-Z, state chairman of Pheasants Forever in

0045

1 Indiana. Thanks for coming here. I really  
2 appreciate your remarks and I'm here to offer a  
3 resource to you and your staff in the Midwest and  
4 Indiana.

5 Pheasants Forever in Indiana has been growing  
6 rapidly. We have over 3,000 members and dozens of  
7 chapters. On the national level, Pheasants Forever  
8 is also growing by adding Quail Forever as part of  
9 our mission. And the mission under Pheasants Forever  
10 and Quail Forever is the habitat organization and  
11 development. We have 100,000 members at the national  
12 level. We planted 2.3 million acres of new habitat  
13 last year with the help of private and corporate  
14 donations. Totally our chapters across the United  
15 States contributed over \$100 million last year to  
16 habitat development.

17 And I think we offer a resource, if it's of any  
18 use to you, in lobbying at the local political level  
19 and at the national level. Our leaders, together  
20 with John Tomke from D.U., travel to the White House  
21 periodically to set up advisory councils, and I think

22 some great programs have come out of that.  
23 My background has been varied, but I spent the  
24 last several years doing economic development for  
25 four governors as their environmental ombudsman, and

0046

1 I traveled around the world to our offices in South  
2 Africa and London and Mexico and saw some of the  
3 issues there that they're trying to deal with. I was  
4 happy to hear our speaker talk about the Aldo Leopold  
5 remarks and about that initiative. Last Saturday I  
6 was at the Leopold Shack in Baraboo, Wisconsin, with  
7 his daughters for that initiative workshop. As a  
8 good omen, as we were driving to the shack, two  
9 whooping cranes were standing along the side of the  
10 road next to some sand cranes.

11 We've carried that initiative here to Indiana,  
12 and last year we certified 6,000 educators across the  
13 United States to facilitate that K through 12  
14 education program. The reason it appealed to me is  
15 it takes a realistic approach to economic  
16 development, agribusiness, and protecting the  
17 environment and conservation. In light of that, I  
18 would share with you that we have some other  
19 resources here. After leaving the Governor's office,  
20 I had the pleasure of helping allocate assets, \$600  
21 million a year, most of it here in Indiana.

22 And one of the initiatives of Mayor Canan,  
23 together with the Governor's wife, was the Youth in  
24 Conservation project. We've been carrying that out  
25 for six years. We've spread it in multiple counties

0047

1 and we've had a very good reception. The idea is to  
2 not only help the environment and the habitat but to  
3 teach youth community service at an early age. So  
4 with Director Hufferer's (phonetic) staff and with  
5 his cooperation, we have a grant application in now  
6 for the National Wildlife Federation Schoolyard  
7 Habitat Program. Every school corporation in the  
8 county has signed off.

9 Lastly I would close just by saying that we're  
10 here as a resource for you. If you can use it, call  
11 on us, and whatever we're capable of doing, we'd be  
12 happy to cooperate. Thank you.

13 MR. CASE: Number 12. 13. 14. 15. 16.

14 MR. HASSELL: Good morning.

15 MR. CASE: Good morning.

16 MR. HASSELL: My name is John Hassell,  
17 H-A-S-S-E-L-L. I represent AGROTAIN International, a  
18 manufacturer of urease and nitrification  
19 inhibitors for the UAN solution market. I really  
20 want to talk about the agriculture sector. I think  
21 that there is such a connection between agriculture,  
22 wildlife, and the environment, more so than maybe a  
23 lot of people see that work in agriculture. They  
24 want to be good stewards, but sometimes economics  
25 don't allow them to be as good a steward as they need

0048

1 to be.

2 I'm real concerned about several things. One is  
3 that in 1982 we had about 3.2 billion tons of soil  
4 that was lost off cropland alone in the United  
5 States. That has since dropped to about 1.8 billion  
6 tons in 1997 and it's remained flat. So every year  
7 we lose about 1.8 billion tons of soil off 103  
8 million acres of property. Now, when you talk about  
9 dredging those rivers or lakes or marshes or whatever  
10 it needs, there's a problem out there that we're not  
11 addressing that needs to be addressed.

12 We come in and provide management for wildlife,  
13 such as buffers, but we forget about the landscape  
14 that's behind it. One of the things that we believe  
15 is if we're going to protect this resource, to  
16 continue to provide food for a growing, consuming,  
17 demanding population here in our country, that we're  
18 really going to have to put an emphasis on our  
19 cropland acres and, at the same time, respecting the  
20 need for these other uses that are out there, because  
21 there is a connection between all of it.

22 In 1982, we had 420 million acres of cropland in  
23 the United States. Today we have 367 million. Quite  
24 a loss. But yet we're still demanding the same  
25 amount of food to feed this demanding society. I

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1 really believe that if we look at our soil loss, our  
2 degradation of our croplands, the cropland reduction,  
3 that we really need to have a policy that looks at  
4 protecting those croplands and maximizing them to  
5 their greatest potential.

6 One of the things that I would recommend is that  
7 we move away from what we call conventional tillage  
8 in our country to more of a crop residue management,  
9 looking at more of a no-till solution where we  
10 actually do no-till on a crop like corn that provides  
11 nesting for ducks and quail, food. It's been shown  
12 that the daily caloric intake of quail from a  
13 clean-till system to a no-till system dropped from 22  
14 hours to four hours. That's pretty significant. And  
15 at the same time, we're protecting those resources.

16 Another thing that I'd like to talk about deals  
17 with education. We have a farming society that's  
18 pretty much ingrained with generations of practices.  
19 What their grandfathers did is what their fathers did  
20 is what the children are doing. And we need a pretty  
21 strong education program that looks at trying to  
22 change the way management is done. We also need to  
23 bring in industry more than what we've brought in the  
24 past. Government and industry haven't worked as  
25 close together as they could.

0050

1 Industry provides a tremendous amount of  
2 technology and science that's available. And it  
3 would be really nice to have a program where  
4 academia, nonprofits, government, and industry come  
5 together with local groups and local producers to

6 talk about the problems and let the industry talk  
7 about the solutions to the problems that they face.  
8 I have comments that I've already submitted, so thank  
9 you very much for this.

10 MR. CASE: Thank you. Number 17.

11 MR. VANMETER: I'm Don VanMeter,  
12 V-A-N-M-E-T-E-R. I represent myself. I'm a  
13 professor of natural resources here at Ball State  
14 University. I fully support most of what's been  
15 said, and most of what's been said is some of the  
16 things that I would have said, too. A couple of  
17 things, though.

18 I think with a cooperative conservation program,  
19 I want to make sure that there's real efforts to  
20 make -- to incorporate some of the ideas of the  
21 philosophy into the next Farm Bill. I think it's  
22 been mentioned several times that here in Indiana we  
23 are a very rural community and we have -- farming is  
24 an extremely important aspect to our lives, as it is  
25 nationwide. And I think it has provided an

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1 opportunity for conservation groups to get together  
2 to have significant conservation provisions in the  
3 Farm Bill. And I don't want to -- I want to  
4 encourage that to continue, and this program may,  
5 indeed, be able to enhance some aspects of the next  
6 Farm Bill.

7 And, secondly, I want to -- as many of the  
8 previous speakers have talked about education, as you  
9 might guess, a professor is going to talk about  
10 education. We've talked quite a bit about elementary  
11 education, secondary education, and to some degree,  
12 higher education. The Fish and Wildlife Service has  
13 done wonderful things with educational brochures and  
14 materials. They are to be commended on that. A lot  
15 of it has been directed toward elementary and  
16 secondary, which I'm not talking about at all.

17 But I do think one area has been missing. And  
18 that is educational areas to adults, to the general  
19 public. I think that there may be opportunities in  
20 the cooperative conservation program to work with the  
21 federal government, to work with state DNRs, to work  
22 with other organizations to really make the public  
23 aware of the issues that we have in natural resource  
24 management in this state and in this country.

25 And we do that much differently than you do when

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1 you're in elementary or in secondary or in higher  
2 education. It's a different approach. It's a much  
3 more informal approach. And I just don't think that  
4 we have done enough of that. We need to make the  
5 public aware, first of all, that this is an issue and  
6 it does affect everybody, not just people who are  
7 interested in bunnies and pheasants or clean water.

8 Everybody is involved and everybody needs to be  
9 aware of natural resource management and the  
10 importance of managing our resources for the future.



11 And then, secondly, in addition to making them aware,  
12 we need to have a systematic way of getting  
13 information to the adults and general public about  
14 these issues. Thank you.

15 MR. CASE: Thank you. 18. 19.

16 MS. DENNIS: Hello. I'm Lynn Dennis. I'm with  
17 The Nature Conservancy, the Indiana chapter. I'll  
18 just be making a brief statement and we will submit  
19 written comments. The cornerstone of The Nature  
20 Conservancy for some time has been essentially  
21 cooperative conservation. We've been a great user of  
22 some of these programs that the federal government  
23 has put together. We've been partners with many of  
24 the organizations that have testified today.

25 And so we applaud you for the programs that you  
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1 have developed, and we think one thing that you could  
2 do to maybe enhance the federal government's delivery  
3 is to maybe take a lesson from your own book and  
4 require the states to do a state wildlife -- a  
5 comprehensive wildlife plan. And perhaps federal  
6 agencies that work in the area of wildlife and  
7 natural resources could put some sort of  
8 comprehensive plan together of how they can work  
9 together.

10 And we just hope that you will continue to try  
11 to fully fund programs like the land and water -- or  
12 Conservation Fund, the Forest Legacy Program, state  
13 wildlife grants. The FLIP program for forest  
14 landowners, I think, has kind of gone by the wayside.  
15 Good things, we've got a new state forester here who  
16 is going to put some more money towards that. It  
17 would be nice to have the federal government put some  
18 more.

19 We've got really good hardwoods in this state  
20 and we'd like to make the most of those, both from a  
21 natural resource perspective and then, of course,  
22 from an industry perspective.

23 And the Farm Bill -- I don't know how I can  
24 forget the Farm Bill. We, of course, will be hoping  
25 that the Farm Bill will expand its programs. The WRP

0054  
1 program is very important. Our chapter used WRP  
2 extensively at a restoration project in Newton  
3 County, a 7,000-acre prairie wetland restoration. We  
4 were partners in Goose Pond, the 8,000 acres that  
5 Ducks Unlimited referred to down in southwestern  
6 Indiana.

7 We've got chances of moving some migration  
8 patterns, which can be good if you don't have all the  
9 birds flying in one pattern. We can move that along  
10 into Indiana and move up from Goose Pond up to Newton  
11 County and on up. So we say keep up the good work  
12 and just try to get as much funding for some of  
13 these, because there are plenty of partners out there  
14 to take advantage of, lots of private landowners who  
15 are interested in becoming good stewards. And so

16 just keep that up. Thanks.

17 MR. CASE: Thank you. Number 20. 21. 22.

18 MS. CHAILLE: Good morning. My name is Holly  
19 Chaille, C-H-A-I-L-L-E. I am from Anderson, so I'm  
20 happy to see another Andersonian in the room. I'm a  
21 true commissioner for the City of Anderson, appointed  
22 by the Mayor, and work with some other groups, as  
23 well. Anderson and Madison County face some serious  
24 economic issues, having been historically an auto  
25 manufacturing factory community.

0055

1 When those factories shut down and move on, they  
2 have tended to leave behind as their legacies their  
3 buildings and their materials and their waste. We  
4 also have the dubious honor of being the site of the  
5 largest magnesium fire ever, so it's hard for us to  
6 lure in people with that as our backdrop. So there  
7 are a lot of folks in Anderson, including our Mayor  
8 and our economic development team, who are working  
9 diligently to bring in new companies such as Nestle  
10 and Mancorp.

11 However, it's the grassroots folks like Sheryl  
12 and the tree commissioners, the Beautification  
13 Committee, and the White River watchers who are  
14 really out there working hard to turn around our  
15 community and keep the urban forests, and keep the  
16 green spaces there and vibrant, and clean the White  
17 River. What I would ask and what I would encourage,  
18 in my experience, multi-agency coalitions have been  
19 excellent in our community. I don't see a lot of --  
20 outside of the folks that are here on behalf of this  
21 group, a lot of local government folks here. And  
22 they are the ones that are able to get money for  
23 projects like brownfield and other things.

24 We are the grassroots people who are willing to  
25 be here on Saturday and walk door-to-door and clean

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1 the river in our wading pants or whatever it takes to  
2 get done. So I would encourage that you make the  
3 representatives from the agencies that are here today  
4 available to us on an as-needed basis to come into  
5 our communities, not necessarily to provide money,  
6 but resources and mediators and people who can sit  
7 down at the table with us and our local government  
8 and those businesses who want to bring in landfills  
9 and want to do things to help us and discuss how we  
10 can keep our economy growing, and at the same time,  
11 make it a city and a state that folks want to live in  
12 and raise their kids in and take pride in. Thank  
13 you.

14 MR. CASE: Thank you. 23. 24.

15 MR. BUNDY: Morning. My name is John Bundy,  
16 B-U-N-D-Y, President of White River Rescue. Most of  
17 the people in this room know that this area sustained  
18 the largest environmental disaster ever in the  
19 history of Indiana seven years ago. The fish kill

20 which originated in Anderson destroyed the White  
21 River from Anderson to Indianapolis. In the  
22 aftermath, White River Rescue formed as a nonprofit  
23 to raise the money to purchase the fish that we  
24 needed to restock it. We to date have restocked over  
25 a million fish.

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1 We worked with the Indiana DNR, IDEM, and U.S.  
2 Fish and Wildlife as we raised the money from private  
3 sources and restocked the river. There was a federal  
4 lawsuit filed against the polluter. The polluter  
5 eventually paid the bill and pled guilty to seven  
6 violations of the Clean Water Act. In the aftermath  
7 of the settlement, there were two trusts donated --  
8 not donated, but abstracted from them to -- by the  
9 federal court and there was a council formed. I  
10 served on that council along with Sheryl and many  
11 other people. There were ten of us. It was  
12 administered by the three trustees of those  
13 organizations.

14 We have to date completed 70 different projects  
15 throughout this river. There's many things that came  
16 to the table from the public never even thought of  
17 before. I'm not going to go into the details. Most  
18 of the people in this room are familiar with them.  
19 There are several people here that have been involved  
20 with the projects. However, as we come to the end of  
21 this restoration -- in this 50 miles, we've protected  
22 over 500 acres permanently -- where do we go from  
23 here? How do we continue restoration of the White  
24 River and its over 300 miles? We would like to use  
25 the things that we've learned and see if we can

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1 procure the funding to continue onward.

2 White River Rescue, people have asked what we're  
3 doing now. In the last year we have worked producing  
4 a documentary about this. The documentary will be  
5 available at the anniversary of the fish kill, which  
6 is coming up at the end of this year. It is for  
7 education and groups and schools. Education was  
8 mentioned. That is our gift to the communities and  
9 to all people that want to do something to preserve  
10 their natural areas. We need to know how to  
11 distribute that and fund the distribution of it to  
12 the education programs.

13 There's many personal stories. 500 articles  
14 have been written. I'm only going to share one  
15 today. This little boy is telling his fish to go  
16 free. We knew when that had happened that that was  
17 the future. What we saw there was the hope for the  
18 future. He comes about this naturally. That little  
19 boy is the tenth grandchild of Sitting Bull. Many  
20 partnerships have been formed throughout this process  
21 in the last seven years. Members of his tribe came  
22 here to help stock fish. I always thought that it  
23 was the greatest involvement, that it was a big thing

24 to the South Dakota tribe to come here and help  
25 restore the river. Thank you for your time.

0059

1 MR. CASE: Thank you. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29.  
2 30.

3 MR. BROWN: 31.

4 MR. CASE: 31.

5 MR. BROWN: My name is Hugh Brown. Easy to  
6 spell. H-U-G-H, B-R-O-W-N. I represent several  
7 different groups. I work at Ball State University  
8 where I am in the department of natural resources and  
9 environmental management. I serve as the director of  
10 our local field station and environmental education  
11 center. I'm also president of the Red-tail  
12 Conservancy, a local land trust that Barry Banks  
13 mentioned earlier. And I also serve as president of  
14 the Indiana Land Protection Alliance, which is an  
15 umbrella organization serving and trying to increase  
16 the capacity of land trusts in the state.

17 Since I'm apparently the last one, there's not  
18 too much material to cover that hasn't already been  
19 addressed. I would like to echo the sentiments about  
20 appreciation for HR-4, the Pension Bill that allows  
21 for increased deductions for conservation easements.  
22 We do feel that this will be an incentive for  
23 landowners to provide protection of natural resources  
24 on their property, and we would like to see that  
25 continue past 2007, so I guess it's not too early to

0060

1 start working on that operation.

2 Ken Brunswick started the program. We'd like to  
3 mention some of the other partnerships that I've been

4 involved with. Jeff Kiefer from U.S. Fish and  
5 Wildlife Service assisted us with the field station  
6 for habitat restoration. We've had cooperation from  
7 the Division of State Nature Preserves in terms of  
8 publicizing some of the information for land trusts  
9 in the state because we think that's a real logical  
10 linkage to have state nature preserves and land  
11 trusts working together.

12 There are several major threats to biodiversity.  
13 The first that I would mention is climate change. I  
14 don't believe in three minutes that I can address  
15 that fully, so I will try to provide some written  
16 comments. Second is loss of habitat. And, clearly,  
17 the land trusts are positioned to assist with the  
18 reversal of that trend.

19 And finally is the control of invasive species.  
20 And not to point fingers, but the former NRCS,  
21 formerly SCS, did assist with the introduction and  
22 distribution of some of the invasive species that  
23 we're trying to control now, particularly multiflora  
24 rose. And I would really like to see stronger  
25 programs to help fund control of invasive species,

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1 because after loss of habitat, that's the second most

2 likely cause of species decline.

3 And the comments on the Farm Bill, I'm very  
4 interested in seeing how the progress of that  
5 unfolds. We've used a number of programs. We use  
6 the Wildlife Incentives Program as part of our  
7 Red-tail nature preserve restoration, and so that's  
8 something that's really worked for cooperative  
9 conservation. I'd like to see that program continue,  
10 along with others. As we mentioned, Wetland Reserve  
11 Program, conservation reserve programs, and just  
12 green payments in general. Thank you.

13 MR. CASE: Thank you. Is there anyone else that  
14 wanted to come to the podium that has not had a  
15 chance yet? Okay. If not, we're going to open it up  
16 for questions and answers. If you have questions you  
17 want to ask this way or if anyone else has questions  
18 and you want to come up to the microphone, we'll ask  
19 you just to state your name again. You weren't  
20 prepared for this part. Please come up to the  
21 microphone.

22 MR. ROBINSON: As we move forward with a  
23 burgeoning population --

24 MR. CASE: Just say your name again.

25 MR. ROBINSON: Oh, yeah. Stephen Robinson,

0062

1 S-T-E-P-H-E-N, R-O-B-I-N-S-O-N. As we move forward  
2 with a burgeoning population of humans and we're  
3 trying to find a balance between our energy policy,  
4 which is semi-existent, and the aid of habitat, and  
5 moving forward probably is going to be a biofuel  
6 technology that is really coming out of the woodwork,  
7 particularly in Indiana, what do you see as the  
8 challenges for Fish and Wildlife, for the Interior,  
9 for agriculture, and for builders and developers  
10 trying to cooperate with one another and still  
11 preserve everything we still have?

12 MS. SCARLETT: Dale may also want to add to  
13 this. Big question. Obviously, the nation does need  
14 energy and we recognize that that energy portfolio  
15 needs to be broadened and moved beyond the  
16 traditional fossil fuel resources as the sole or  
17 primary focus, to include biomass, wind, other energy  
18 sources. But, of course, there's no energy source  
19 that's a free lunch. An economist once told me there  
20 are no solutions, only tradeoffs. Whether we're  
21 doing wind, there's land transformations involved  
22 there; (inaudible) tanks, land transformations  
23 involved. If we move to biofuels that are  
24 agriculture-based, of course, that, too, involves  
25 land transformations.

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1 So the challenge that we face, whether it's in  
2 operating on a traditional level of gas activities  
3 and/or some of these newer energy activities, is to  
4 have a big picture approach in which we're trying to  
5 think through the environmental impacts of those land  
6 transformations.

7           Let me be specific then in a couple of areas and  
8 then -- start West and then move here, perhaps more  
9 relevant, specifically to Indiana. In the West,  
10 where there is a lot of traditional oil and gas  
11 development preexisting, we are realizing that that  
12 development, at least on the public lands, has  
13 traditionally been done in a kind of piecemeal  
14 fashion, the land planning done in small land units,  
15 very piecemeal, not giving us a good opportunity to  
16 look, for example, at land fragmentation that might  
17 result and how that affects migration corridors of  
18 species.

19           So one of the things that we have underway right  
20 now is look at how we do that land use planning,  
21 whether we can move back to a more landscape scale,  
22 overlay those planning efforts with biological mass  
23 information on, for example, sage grouse and  
24 sagebrush habitat, etc., so that we can make this all  
25 work better together, ensuring the preservation of

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1 nonfragmented habitats. That's a work in progress.  
2 There's a lot more thinking that needs to be done, as  
3 well as investment on the ground.

4           Moving east to places like Indiana, where, for  
5 example, biofuel may be very much part of the  
6 picture, I think, again, we've heard a lot of the  
7 issues that any agriculture presents, issues that  
8 pertain to soil and soil loss and, therefore, how one  
9 does soil management, whether it's no-till or other  
10 tools. We've heard a lot of talk about various  
11 applications of chemicals and nonpoint source  
12 contaminants and sedimentation. As we move forward  
13 with agriculture that may be an energy base, the same  
14 kinds of challenges and the same kind of creative  
15 thinking. We have some folks -- what was the group?  
16 CropLife?

17           AUDIENCE MEMBER: CropLife America.

18           MS. SCARLETT: Some of the efforts that they're  
19 doing to introduce best management practices so that  
20 we minimize any of the runoff so that you both allow  
21 for productive yield, but at the same time, more  
22 minimal impacts. All of these things, I think, are  
23 going to have to come into play as we move forward,  
24 moving away from piecemeal thinking to holistic  
25 thinking, so that we try to get it right in that

0065

1 holistic sense. And I don't know, Dale, if you want  
2 to add to that, but those would be my initial  
3 thoughts.

4           MR. HALL: I agree totally. I think, though, if  
5 you look at the history of how energy development has  
6 been done, we have been fragmented. There have not  
7 been these regular and open discussions at the  
8 beginning of the process. And so a process starts  
9 getting down the road and it gets more firmed up in a  
10 developer's mind or in the energy company's mind, and  
11 then all of a sudden, those of us that have maybe a

12 little different interest out there that we want to  
13 make sure is considered, we become a problem.  
14 And I think what we have to get through is what  
15 Lynn alluded to there. We have to be sitting down in  
16 cooperative conservation, and cooperative  
17 conservation includes understanding that people live  
18 here. And, again, I am a realist and I don't  
19 necessarily pound on the coal companies for coming in  
20 to get coal out when my home is being heated by a  
21 coal fire from a power plant. We need to understand  
22 that we're all in the circle. We're all there.

23 So then we need to be sitting down at the  
24 beginning and talking together about how extraction  
25 of the fossil fuels can take place in a least harmful

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1 and most mitigative way and restorative way when  
2 we're finished, and at the same time, look at how we  
3 can start moving into augmenting the system that  
4 we're in now with these non-fossil fuel and renewable  
5 resources. But I think the key has to be that we do  
6 a much better job of sitting down at the beginning  
7 and starting to talk to each other before things go  
8 too far down the road. And if we don't do that, then  
9 we're not going to make progress. If we do that, I  
10 think we're making progress.

11 MR. ROBINSON: Indiana has -- if I may, Indiana  
12 is kind of sitting in the middle of everything  
13 besides geographically. We have a Governor who is  
14 really moving forward with economic developments that  
15 we desperately need. And one of his key components  
16 is biofuel technology for Indiana. And the sites are  
17 being platted as we speak and a lot of plants are  
18 being built. And soy biofuel is a much cleaner  
19 product than regular diesel fuel.

20 But we're also sitting here with the coal  
21 industry, which we have -- we love the fact that we  
22 have some of the cheapest electric bills in the  
23 United States. It's 6 and 7 cents a kilowatt hour on  
24 the meter. As a homeowner, it's just about unheard  
25 of that that's all we pay for electricity. It's

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1 three times that on the East Coast. But the reason  
2 we have it is because of coal technology, because of  
3 the fact that we have our own coal. With a growing  
4 population and these other factors, cooperation is  
5 tantamount. Because we also have a great wildlife.  
6 We have wonderful forestry and excellent wetland  
7 restoration opportunities here.

8 I don't know if you guys know about this or not,  
9 but an excellent example of cooperative conservation  
10 is the Wheatfield NIPSCO plant for electrical  
11 generation in northern Indiana. They burn two stacks  
12 up there using high-sulfur coals. They remove the  
13 particulates from the atmosphere. They take calcium  
14 chloride and shut down one stack every day. It rains  
15 96 percent pure gypsum, which they take and wrap with

16 96 percent recycled paper and create -- and take  
17 167,000 tons of fly ash out of the atmosphere,  
18 producing millions of more feet of gypsum board  
19 that's called tough rock, which is distributed all  
20 over the United States. That's more of what we need.

21 MR. CASE: Thank you. Other comments? Yes,  
22 please. Go ahead. Just state your name first,  
23 please.

24 MR. BANKS: Barry Banks. We've heard a lot  
25 about energy production and alternative energy, and  
0068

1 this certainly is a major concern, but when it comes  
2 to energy, one thing I haven't heard today is energy  
3 conservation. Lots can be said about our automobile  
4 industry. Of course, my father retired from an old  
5 parts place, and I lived a very, very wonderful  
6 childhood at the benefit of the engines.

7 There's a mindset that we need big cars, that we  
8 like to drive our SUVs. A lot of that comes through  
9 the manufacturers of those cars. We've made parts  
10 for them here. We've made transmissions for them  
11 here in Muncie. I would like to see a conservation  
12 effort on a federal level to alter that mindset.  
13 Much can be done through the media today. The media,  
14 through the consumer efforts and commercial efforts,  
15 do a lot to set the course for the people. And so  
16 let's go back to those days when people went out and  
17 bought those little cars and bought those -- but that  
18 balance between a comfortable car and energy  
19 efficient, the hybrids. Energy conservation. We can  
20 produce lots of energy. We have lots of energy  
21 that's going to waste because of our lifestyle. And  
22 I'd like to see that change.

23 MS. SCARLETT: Well, that was in the form of a  
24 comment. Let me also offer some observations. Of  
25 course, the President announced two years ago his  
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1 fuel initiative, a major investment to try and pivot  
2 toward a different alternative fuel vehicle. And  
3 that effort is underway.

4 But bringing it back to the Department of the  
5 Interior that Dale and I represent, much of the role  
6 that we can play is in the conservation context. And  
7 I fully agree the challenges before us are not simply  
8 those of increasing or amplifying the energy  
9 portfolio, but also rely on the Conservation Fund.  
10 The role we can best play at Interior is through  
11 example. The Department of the Interior manages 507  
12 million acres all across this land. We have many, as  
13 you might imagine, facilities, whether they be  
14 visitor centers at national parks, locations and  
15 sites and facilities that wildlife furnishes.

16 And one of the things that we have tried to do  
17 is, as we move forward in those facilities, upgrading  
18 them and/or, where we have new ones, utilizing the  
19 state-of-the-art energy-conserving technologies,  
20 ranging from passive solar to geothermal,



21 construction techniques that minimize our  
22 environmental footprint, including our use of energy.  
23 Because we're places where, between all of our  
24 agencies in the Department of the Interior, some 400  
25 million people visit each year, we provide a learning

0070

1 laboratory, if you will, a platform for people to see  
2 what is possible. So we are very much doing that.  
3 In fact, the Department of the Interior is one of the  
4 leaders among the federal agencies in actually on the  
5 ground utilizing these technologies as a way of  
6 exemplifying what can be done.

7 MR. HALL: I'd like to add a comment because it  
8 came up earlier and, unfortunately, I think the lady  
9 left that brought up the Arctic National Wildlife  
10 Refuge earlier. She left. Okay. You know, while  
11 we're learning from you, I want to make sure that the  
12 public understands the factual aspects of things that  
13 we deal with, as well. And I think that as I hear  
14 the debate about drilling -- yes, no -- on the Arctic  
15 National Wildlife Refuge, I think a lot of the  
16 background has been left out in the media.

17 So let me give you a little bit of background so  
18 at least everyone has the facts. When Jimmy Carter

19 was President of the United States, they passed a  
20 law. We refer to it as ANILCA, but in Alaska it's  
21 called the Alaska Natural Interest Lands Conservation  
22 Act. And it divided up the lands in Alaska. And in  
23 that law, the Fish and Wildlife Service received over  
24 50 million acres of National Wildlife Refuge lands  
25 that were just put into our systems. And among that

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1 50-million plus acre placement in the National  
2 Wildlife Refuge system was 19 million acres that is  
3 now the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

4 But in that law -- and you'll hear these lands  
5 referred to as the 1002 land. That is Section 1002  
6 of that law. Congress reserved for future discretion  
7 the ability to make a decision on whether or not they  
8 wanted to allow oil and gas exploration or other  
9 types of uses in that 1002 land, which constitutes  
10 about 1.5 million acres of that 19 million in the  
11 refuge.

12 That's what's being discussed and that's why  
13 Congress is the one discussing it, because Congress  
14 has to decide whether or not they want to allow oil  
15 and gas exploration in that area. The discussion  
16 that has been there and was there last year was  
17 really about a footprint that, if I remember  
18 correctly, was in the neighborhood of 2,000 to --  
19 even if you were liberal, up to 5,000 acres of that  
20 19-million-acre refuge. But this is a decision that  
21 was made under Jimmy Carter's administration in law,  
22 and it has just sort of fed over the years to where  
23 the decision needs to be made now or anytime Congress  
24 decides it wants to make it.

25           So this is not something in competition with the  
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1   Wilderness Act. It's not something in competition  
2   with other laws. It has its own law that establishes  
3   there will be a decision made later. So I just  
4   wanted to bring that up so at least we all understand  
5   the legalities of what's taking place. And Congress,  
6   as you know, is having a very hard time deciding what  
7   they want to do with that 1.5 million acres of land.  
8   So since that was brought up, I want to make sure  
9   that we were clear on that, what that process is.

10       MR. CASE: Other questions?

11       MS. FITZWATER: My name is Kendra Fitzwater.  
12   That's K-E-N-D-R-A, F-I-T-Z-W-A-T-E-R. We've talked  
13   about converting corn and soybeans and using solar  
14   and wind and so on and so forth. I want to know what  
15   is being thought of with our solid waste, because  
16   states such as Arizona have been using their solid  
17   waste, separating the recyclables and using those  
18   over again and then converting their solid waste into  
19   ethanol to use. And I want to know what's being done  
20   with that.

21       MR. HALL: That's really a good question. And  
22   there has been some research done at Texas Tech  
23   University. My job before becoming Director was  
24   Regional Director of the Southwest, and Texas was one  
25   of my states. And Texas Tech University, being an

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1   agronomic university, was working with just that  
2   thing on stockyards. And, actually, they worked out  
3   techniques with grading systems and collecting solid  
4   waste and converting them to fuel to where a lot of  
5   these cow operations, whether they be dairy or  
6   whether they be stockyards, were able to be  
7   self-sufficient on their energy production and clean  
8   up the waste at the same time. So technology is  
9   moving that way. I can't predict at what point that  
10   it will pick up speed and really be used more, but I  
11   think the technology is being developed that seems to  
12   be very workable, and we hope to see more of that.

13       MS. SCARLETT: You know, in a prior life, before  
14   coming to the Department of the Interior in 2001, I  
15   did a lot of research for solid waste. In fact, much  
16   of my research and writing through the '90s was on  
17   solid waste, including recycling and including the  
18   prospect of utilizing waste for energy. Dale is  
19   right. There are lots of different technologies out  
20   there, whether it's for animal waste or whether it's  
21   for residential municipal waste, to transform solid  
22   waste into various products. And some of those are  
23   evolving, will evolve, and will continue to do so.  
24   There are pilot projects. There are actual waste  
25   management projects currently functioning.

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1       The Administration actually has an international  
2   initiative on methane gas from waste sites, from  
3   landfills, to actually capture that methane gas and

4 utilize it. So there are many different things going  
5 on, but the real challenge in the solid waste context  
6 is that you have multiple different kinds of  
7 materials. Waste does tend to have a high BTU value.  
8 But, again, it really depends on -- some of that  
9 waste might be better utilized, as you noted, for  
10 remanufacture through recycling than through  
11 capturing it and just utilizing it for waste.

12 So the technologies are there, but it's like all  
13 these other alternative energies. It's certainly not  
14 the resolution to all our energy challenges. It  
15 would be one additional piece to the overall  
16 portfolio.

17 MR. CASE: Other questions?

18 DR. LAMENT: Jasper Lament, L-A-M-E-N-T. We've  
19 heard a lot today about the interest in Indiana in  
20 wetlands conservation from people in all walks of  
21 life, in agriculture and homebuilders and concerned  
22 citizens. And the Fish and Wildlife Service, of  
23 course, has been a great leader in cooperative  
24 conservation of wetlands. But I'd like to ask you  
25 both what opportunities you see in doing even more in

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1 the area of cooperative wetland conservation going  
2 into the future, given the President's interest in  
3 that focus area. Thanks.

4 MS. SCARLETT: Perhaps both Dale and I will take  
5 a little stab at that. The President, as you noted,  
6 did set forth a goal to increase wetland acreage by  
7 3 million acres by 2009. That's 3 million new or  
8 additional acres of wetland, either protected or  
9 restored. And we're well on our way. We issued a  
10 report a few months back that indicated that we  
11 actually are well on our way towards achieving that  
12 goal. One of the areas that we are -- in addition to  
13 continuing with our North American Wetlands  
14 Conservation Fund grants and, of course, the  
15 Department of Agriculture through their Wetlands  
16 Reserve Program -- those are very much in place. We  
17 continue to invest in those programs, and I would  
18 envision that investment continuing along the pace  
19 that we have been.

20 But we're beginning to take an additional focus  
21 on coastal wetlands. With the Hurricane Katrina  
22 which occurred just about a year ago right now,  
23 really, that elevated public awareness and federal  
24 agency attention to the incredible importance of  
25 restoring coastal wetlands, not only for their

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1 environmental benefits, of which there are many, but  
2 also because they provide very significant community  
3 and public safety benefits.

4 For example, we put out a little white paper  
5 indicating that for each 2.7 miles of wetlands and  
6 sea marsh off the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, for  
7 each 2.7 miles of sea marsh, that reduces storm surge  
8 by about a foot. Well, a hundred years ago, there

9 was 100 miles of sea marsh out from New Orleans  
10 seaward. When you think about that and do the math,  
11 that means that the 30-foot storm surge that occurred  
12 in Katrina, by the time it would have reached New  
13 Orleans a hundred years ago, it would have been maybe  
14 a foot high.

15 So we are very much looking at mechanisms that  
16 we can do to utilize and we are working very closely  
17 with the Army Corps of Engineers as they reexamine  
18 the levee structure, the entire water flow structure

19 there, and how we can perhaps get some additional  
20 restoration and get those sea marshes back in place.  
21 So yes, wetlands are an important focus, but coastal  
22 wetlands, I think, in particular are going to see  
23 some additional focus.

24 MR. HALL: Well, you may not believe this, but  
25 as much as we work with D.U., we did not ask Jasper  
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1 to ask this question. By training, I'm a wetlands  
2 biologist, so this is one of my passions. And  
3 everything Lynn has said, you know, I can only say  
4 amen to. When I'm speaking to people -- and I'll say  
5 it again today -- just remember that it is the  
6 wetlands that protect the levees and the levees that  
7 protect the people. And if we're going to make sure  
8 that public investment in flood control and storm  
9 abatement structures are taken care of, we also need  
10 those healthy wetland ecosystems out in front of  
11 those structures so they can withstand the stress  
12 that's coming.

13 You know, the spotlight is now on the Gulf Coast  
14 and we're going to jump on it. Because this is my --  
15 I have 28 years with Fish and Wildlife Service. We  
16 have always looked at wetlands as mitigation for  
17 things that do good things for people and offer  
18 protection. The literature has always been there  
19 that says that they provide a lot of protection.  
20 We're trying, as Lynn said, to just really focus on  
21 the spotlight that's on the Gulf Coast, to drive that  
22 home, because all wetlands are interconnected. Your  
23 wetlands up here are interconnected with those Gulf  
24 Coast wetlands.

25 And if we can get people to understand the real  
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1 importance that those wetlands play on the Gulf  
2 Coast, then we can start talking and having people  
3 understand the sponges that the flood plains provide  
4 along the rivers to keep towns from flooding and the  
5 values that are provided there for protection of  
6 people, croplands, and everything else. But we have  
7 to get a paradigm shifted to where the public,  
8 whether you're in South Dakota or on top South  
9 Dakota, that South Dakota benefits when New Orleans  
10 and the Gulf Coast of Louisiana is recognized for the  
11 wetlands values that are given there, not just for  
12 wildlife, but to protect people.

13 And that's why when the time comes to put money  
14 down there to do it, eventually even South Dakota is  
15 going to benefit. Because once we get people  
16 understanding that, we can start building them back.  
17 And I'm really excited at the silver lining in this  
18 devastating cloud that happened down there, because  
19 we may have the public on the verge of really  
20 understanding just how important these natural  
21 resources are to all of us. And so we're going to  
22 keep trying.

23 MS. SCARLETT: You know, I'd like to add one  
24 more comment because it occurred to me how incredibly  
25 important the concept of cooperative conservation is  
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1 to these efforts. A few years back, we did a little  
2 analysis of how much we protect -- how many wetlands  
3 we protect through cooperative conservation. I often  
4 get questions from the media about cooperative  
5 conservation saying, Well, that's all well and good,  
6 but isn't it just a project here, a project there,  
7 and it doesn't really amount to a hill of beans?

8 And when we did the analysis for wetlands, we  
9 showed that each year we protected -- and this was  
10 the early part of the 2000s, and so the pace has  
11 actually increased since we did this analysis. Each  
12 year we protect, restore, enhance some 300,000 acres  
13 of wetlands through cooperative conservation  
14 endeavors. We, through the Section 404 Clean Water  
15 Act provisions, actually mitigate on that about  
16 20,000 acres of wetlands. So I don't want to suggest  
17 that those mitigation efforts are not important, but  
18 just to lay forth to you the comparison of the  
19 wetlands of the Section 404 mitigation, about 20,000  
20 acres a year, or cooperative conservation, about  
21 300,000.

22 That excludes one other extraordinary piece of  
23 the picture. And that is our National Wildlife  
24 Refuges, which are, in Dale's job at the Fish and  
25 Wildlife Service, 545 wildlife refuges, many of them

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1 wetlands. Our wildlife refuges restore and enhance  
2 over a million acres of wetlands each year. And as  
3 an ongoing basis, they are continuing to get in there  
4 with removal of invasives or whatever. But  
5 extraordinarily important is stitching together this  
6 wetlands mosaic that Dale described.

7 MS. SHARP: Again, my name is Amy Sharp, and I  
8 work in the Louisville District Office of the Great  
9 Lakes and Ohio River Division of the U.S. Army Corps  
10 of Engineers. And I really just want to kind of  
11 introduce myself and let you guys know that the  
12 questions that are being asked here today on  
13 cooperative conservation, sometimes you have a really  
14 specific issue. And in the State of Indiana, those  
15 of you who do have questions and you're looking for a  
16 point of contact with the federal government, please  
17 come see me. I'll give you my card, and if you have

18 a question, you can always call me. We work with EPA  
19 on ground water issues. We work on regional  
20 watershed comprehensive planning with NRCS. We've  
21 worked with The Nature Conservancy and Ducks  
22 Unlimited on restoration projects. So we do a lot  
23 more than levees. But if you have questions, please  
24 feel free to talk to me later. Thank you.

25 MR. HALL: Thank you.

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1 MR. CASE: Other questions?

2 MR. BUNDY: I have one only. This is for you,  
3 Lynn, actually, although being a wetlands biologist,  
4 I bet you've encountered this. One of the greatest  
5 threats we have to the waterways and wetlands in this  
6 state is the throwing away of tires by the thousands.  
7 Tires are a recyclable product. There's two gallons  
8 of oil in each one. They use them for playgrounds.  
9 My daughter has won many track meets on rubber  
10 tracks.

11 The State of Indiana has a tax, a surtax, on  
12 every tire purchased, 6 million a year. That tax is  
13 supposed to go to recycling, and it does not. It is  
14 used to cut the tires and put them in landfills.  
15 There is no recycling in the State of Indiana. We  
16 have had problems. We had one right here in Muncie.  
17 They had a huge storage of tires that caught on fire.  
18 It was closed. Instead of using the funds from these  
19 fines and from these various tire recycling places,  
20 they need a way, a mechanism and help, to properly  
21 recycle. In the production of cement, they use  
22 tires. They can burn them. There are scrubbers to  
23 take care of them.

24 To say that the tires don't hurt anything in the  
25 waterways is wrong. We've picked up thousands and

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1 thousands in this 50-mile stretch of river that we've  
2 restored. Every one of them when it was picked up  
3 had an oil slick that came up from its deterioration.  
4 We have no answer for that because we seem to have a  
5 disconnect through the bureaucracy on how to do the  
6 recycling. Do you have any programs that you're  
7 working on with tire recycling?

8 MS. SCARLETT: A couple of ways to respond to  
9 that. The Department of the Interior does not itself  
10 have tire recycling programs. The tire recycling  
11 issue really comes under the purview of the  
12 Environmental Protection Agency and their Office of  
13 Solid Waste. That office has spent well over a  
14 decade actually working with private sector and  
15 others on tire recycling technologies.

16 But what I can say is that there's a  
17 proliferation of different state programs. Each  
18 state tends to have its own solid waste management  
19 set of programs. But there are some states that  
20 have, instead of just an outright tax, I guess, as  
21 you described Indiana's program, some of them have a  
22 rebate program that's a little bit akin to a bottle

23 bill, where when you turn your tire in, you get money  
24 back. In some states, that has actually worked  
25 fairly effectively to get folks to actually take the  
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1 tires back instead of diverting them to a landfill.  
2 You are correct that tires do present  
3 significant challenges. They present challenges in  
4 landfills themselves, but they also, where they get  
5 stacked up and discarded, present both fire hazards,  
6 as well as mosquito generation hazards and various  
7 other challenges. So finding ways to get those tires  
8 out of landfills and into productive uses is  
9 important. Tires are now being utilized for  
10 components in gymnasium flooring. All manner of  
11 products. So there is the technical capacity to  
12 utilize them.

13 But we at Interior, we like to think we are in  
14 charge of everything, but that's one thing that we  
15 leave to EPA and, of course, the states, as well.

16 MR. HASSELL: I'm John Hassell, H-A-S-S-E-L-L.  
17 Isn't it interesting how we can find so many ways to  
18 make things a waste product and throw away? And just  
19 on the tire issue, I'm from Oklahoma originally.  
20 I've been a resident of Indiana for six years. I  
21 worked in water quality programs with the state soil  
22 and water conservation agency as a director. And we  
23 found that waste tires were being utilized by other  
24 state agencies to solve stream bank erosion problems,  
25 which were ugly, which floated away, which caused

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1 more problems than what they solved, but that was the  
2 way to get rid of tires. That's really not my  
3 question.

4 My question is this. And I have worked in this  
5 area for a long, long time. And I can remember  
6 working as the director of water programs where we  
7 would do our planning that would run three or four  
8 years only to change because government programs  
9 changed. It seems like you guys can be pretty fickle  
10 about what you do. You either change with an  
11 administration or a law dies and it's not renewed.  
12 When are we going to get in this country a true  
13 conservation policy that runs 25, 50, 100 years that  
14 sets the direction for what needs to be done?

15 You bring up Hurricane Katrina. Why did we  
16 think of this after it happened? And, I mean, I'm  
17 not being critical of this, but it always seems that  
18 we work on a curative basis and not a preventative  
19 basis. In some way -- not only government, because I  
20 don't think government is the answer. I think you're  
21 a part of the answer. I think you have to bring in  
22 industry. I think you have to bring in the groups  
23 that are represented here to work with you. I think  
24 there needs to be really large discussions across  
25 this country about what we can do over the next 50 or

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1 100 years to protect the resources that we have.

2       Otherwise, we're not going to have these  
3 resources. And even though we can talk about the  
4 wonderful things that have happened, let me tell you  
5 there's just as many devastating things happening out  
6 here, too. When we see people that are putting in  
7 wetlands -- thank God you're doing that -- there are  
8 other people draining them. It's just a fact of  
9 life.

10       If we have a policy where we know what's going  
11 to happen and people can get involved and start  
12 writing plans at the local and state level to mention  
13 at the federal level, then we can see some true  
14 happenings. I worked in 319 programs. Let me tell  
15 you. We've spent millions and millions and billions  
16 of dollars in the 319 program to see very small-scale  
17 success. Where is the large-scale success? We've  
18 seen NRCS programs that spend billions of dollars on  
19 conservation annually, and we can tell you how many  
20 practices are put out and how much money we spent,  
21 but we can't show you what we've done to improve  
22 large landscapes.

23       We've worked on the Gulf of Mexico program, an  
24 hypoxia issue, since the late '70s, early '80s. We're  
25 still working on it and haven't seen a difference in  
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1 it. We've seen millions of dollars on the Chesapeake  
2 Bay program. They're talking about doing things like  
3 100-foot buffers but not looking at the landscape.  
4 Where is the long-range conservation policy that we  
5 really need? So that's my question to you.

6       If anything that you would carry back, I really  
7 believe this is something that we need that addresses  
8 everything that we're all interested in, from  
9 wildlife to water quality, air quality to energy,  
10 that really brings the agencies together to set this  
11 type of format and then stay with it. Thank you.

12       MS. SCARLETT: Thank you. And I appreciate the  
13 passion that you bring to your comments. A couple of  
14 observations. You know, I often tell folks, speaking  
15 of our environmental future, that our challenges put  
16 us on a journey, not a destination. And by that, I  
17 mean there's always something more we can do and the  
18 job is never done. But I think the trajectory that  
19 we are now on is one for which we have some tools  
20 that perhaps 50 years ago, 25 years ago, and  
21 certainly 100 years ago we didn't have.

22       Someone today mentioned, for example, the state  
23 wildlife plans. Each state, now 50 states, as well  
24 as several territories, have developed state wildlife  
25 plans through an act of Congress that asks that they  
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1 do so. And we actually provide state and tribal  
2 wildlife grant funding to help that effort along.  
3 Those plans all address similar kinds of issues.  
4 They use a similar template to lay out for that state  
5 what the ongoing long-term and near-term challenges  
6 are and where their biggest priorities and



7 opportunities are.

8 Those wildlife plans provide, if not the  
9 100-year trajectory that you're looking for, at least  
10 a longer-term horizon than we've had in the past to  
11 be able to make sure that our dollars are going to  
12 priority areas and more coordinated issues so that we  
13 can achieve the landscape results that you're talking  
14 about. One of the things that we've done in the  
15 Administration is to actually significantly increase  
16 the funding for the state and wildlife tribal grants  
17 so that those states will then have more ability to  
18 implement the visions set forth in those plans.

19 Secondly, the whole concept behind cooperative  
20 conservation that we've been talking about here today  
21 rests on a -- on several -- on the recognition of  
22 several realities. One is that real results on the  
23 ground are going to require holistic landscape-scale  
24 integrated efforts. And, of course, we have certain  
25 lands in federal dominion that, by golly, we need to

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1 work to partnership not only among the federal  
2 agencies, the Army Corps, ourselves, Department of  
3 Agriculture, but also the states, with tribes, and,  
4 above all, all those private landowners who have so  
5 many of the lands in this nation and who do a good  
6 job as good stewards.

7 So cooperative conservation recognizes that we  
8 need a platform to have that kind of integrated  
9 effort through partnership to get the job done. You  
10 know, beyond that, we also, though, have to recognize  
11 that the world around us is dynamic, so it's probably  
12 an illusion to imagine that we can have a plan that's  
13 going to be 50 years long. What we need are decision  
14 processes that allow us to look holistically and to  
15 adapt, adjust, and identify, as you note, in advance  
16 problems rather than all be reactive.

17 MR. HALL: I was just nodding my head with you  
18 because I agree completely and I think Lynn touched  
19 on here what my answer is, too. You know, I started  
20 with Fish and Wildlife Service in the 1970s. And  
21 while I was wearing a patch on my sleeve for the U.S.  
22 Fish and Wildlife Service, I was appalled that the  
23 Mississippi River would burn probably one year out of  
24 three because of the sheer pollutants that were in  
25 the water that would catch fire. The ice floes were

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1 almost (inaudible). The Great Lakes were choked up.

2 If you go back and remember the things that were  
3 30 years ago and I'll tell you that yes, we have a  
4 lot left to do, but we need not forget the things  
5 that we've also got accomplished. So all the  
6 policies have not necessarily been wrong, but I think  
7 that we need to work on approaches that are flexible  
8 to meet the current times and the current challenges  
9 as time goes down. And my experience there in Fish  
10 and Wildlife resources is that if you go back and  
11 look at all of the very successful programs that Fish

12 and Wildlife manages, they all started from the  
13 ground and came up. They did not start from  
14 government and go down.

15 And the North American Waterfowl Plan and the  
16 North American Wetlands Conservation Act is a prime  
17 example of that. They've set up joint ventures out  
18 on the ground to say how should this be done, because  
19 they're different across the country, so it's going

20 to call for different answers from wherever you sit.  
21 So cooperative conservation to me is starting with  
22 those watershed alliances and with partnerships that  
23 live in a landscape area to say how can we mingle  
24 these things. And the state law strategies are an  
25 outstanding foundation to do that.

0090

1 In my career, this is the first time that I have  
2 ever seen border to border a really good biological  
3 index of the natural resource base out there. And  
4 those of you that are involved in things know that  
5 the toughest question that you come across when  
6 you're sitting down and you start trying to work on  
7 an issue is what do we have, what is the baseline,  
8 you know, what Fish and Wildlife resources, what  
9 challenges, etc., do we have. And these wildlife  
10 strategies are outstanding to provide that.

11 And then the Corps of Engineers, U.S.G.S., we,  
12 the Forest Service, everyone that works then that has  
13 funding that we're moving toward trying to solve some  
14 of those problems, need to come to the table and say  
15 what role do we play? We're not going to drive this  
16 train and we shouldn't. We need to be a participant.  
17 We need to be a helping hand. We need to put our  
18 funding in the right place so that it leverages with  
19 others that are putting monies in and make things  
20 happen.

21 And the way that I describe this is you take the  
22 wildlife strategies that are being built in all 50  
23 states and six territories and you use them as the  
24 foundation. And then much like we would build a GIS  
25 database, those of you who are familiar with GIS know

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1 that you simply decide what it is you need to look at  
2 and you bring in that layer. If you're looking at  
3 natural resource space and you're near a highway,  
4 you're saying, All right, where are the highway  
5 structures? And then if you're the homebuilders, you  
6 say, Okay, where are the subdivisions? And you build  
7 databases that way.

8 I think we could use a lot of the strategies  
9 that same way. Present us a foundation and come in  
10 and say, Okay, we've got Partners for Fish and  
11 Wildlife, we've got NRCS, we've got WRP and CRP,  
12 we've got all these different things. What role  
13 should they play? But we don't necessarily need to  
14 be making that final decision. The final decisions  
15 should be made from the people that are out on the

16 ground that know best about the resources that are  
17 there and have the same concerns we have about making  
18 sure there are healthy systems when all is said and  
19 done.

20 So I'm sorry. I can get on a stump about this.  
21 But this, I think, is just common sense and I believe  
22 that's what cooperative conservation is all about.

23 MR. CASE: Other questions?

24 MR. BANKS: Barry Banks once more, and I'll make  
25 this brief. But if you're driving back to

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1 Indianapolis to the airport from here at some time,  
2 you'll notice a number of projects along the way.  
3 One is Ashton (phonetic) Wetland Project up on  
4 Interstate 69. And then there's also five miles  
5 south of when you get on, it's a big sign that's got  
6 our logo on it. So that will be interesting.

7 I was going to mention there's another INDOT  
8 wetland mitigation project on the way on Old 67 out  
9 of Muncie. But we have another -- at the entrance  
10 there, there are prairie plantings and native  
11 warm-season grasses, as well as forbes, many forbes,  
12 in that intersection. And our interstate section is  
13 the grassland, which is in fescue for the most part,  
14 I think, a very good erosion control grass. Just as  
15 good are the native grasses and forbes, much more  
16 conducive to diversity of the wildlife habitat.

17 I would encourage the folks at Interior to go to  
18 the Department of Transportation. There must be  
19 millions of acres of fescue across this country. And  
20 you can find some exceptions, but Michigan does a  
21 good job of getting some good habitat along the  
22 interstates, but we have just one example in that  
23 millions of acres.

24 MR. CASE: Thank you.

25 MR. HALL: Let me just comment. I'm not one to

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1 criticize because people can criticize me for  
2 whatever I did 20 years ago, as well, but when the  
3 Soil Conservation Service and the Highway Department  
4 and others were looking for just soil stabilization,  
5 you know, they thought fescue was a good thing.  
6 We're down literally working with ranchers, and NRCS  
7 is helping us to do that, to convert fescue back to  
8 native grasses because then they get quail back, they  
9 get better populations of migratory birds. And the  
10 ranchers love it. And we are working with the  
11 Department of Transportation. We have a liaison in  
12 the Fish and Wildlife Service whose whole job is to  
13 work with the Department of Transportation on highway  
14 issues. So we're doing everything we can to work  
15 with them on getting those native grasses back.

16 MR. CASE: In the back.

17 MS. FITZWATER: It's Fitzwater again. Do you  
18 need me to spell it? I just wanted to go back to  
19 some things. What he was talking about with  
20 consistent policies and you guys were referring to

21 how we need to allow flexibility and how we need to  
22 go to the grassroots for that, the problem I have  
23 with that is that the flexibility creates  
24 inconsistencies, and as far as grassroots, they can

25 not get as much publicity as the government can. And  
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1 I think when we're talking about educating our mass  
2 public, specifically our adults, if we do not have a  
3 consistent message from our government saying that,  
4 you know, environment is important and conservation  
5 of the environment is important, then it creates a  
6 wishy-washy effect.

7 MS. SCARLETT: I appreciate that. Let me  
8 clarify how we're using these terms and in what  
9 context. Certainly, you're entirely right that a  
10 consistent and enduring message on the criticality of  
11 conservation resource protection is important. And  
12 it's a message that must not only be stated today but  
13 into the future and without pause.

14 When I think Dale and I mentioned the term  
15 flexibility, we're not really referring to ups and  
16 downs or ebbs and flows or wishy-washy. We're  
17 suggesting that as the world around us continues to  
18 have, for example, infestation of new disease in  
19 forests, whatever the challenge might be, invasives  
20 that show up, we need our yearly, monthly, daily  
21 practices to be able to adapt and identify those and  
22 address them. I think it's in that sense that we're  
23 using the term flexibility.

24 I think also using the term flexibility means  
25 that spatially there's not necessarily a

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1 one-size-fits-all set of priorities. Here in Indiana  
2 there may be issues of, for example, nonpoint source  
3 pollution, restoration of nesting habitat or things  
4 of that nature. Out in the West, one might have  
5 reestablishment of historic water flows that might be  
6 an issue. So it's in that sense that I think we're  
7 using that term and not in a sense of an ebb and flow  
8 on the importance of the conservation message which  
9 must remain constant. Dave.

10 MR. HALL: A consistent message, flexible  
11 approaches, and I think that's really what we're  
12 trying to say.

13 MR. CASE: We've got time for one final comment  
14 or two.

15 MR. CLAMME: My name is Dave Clamme,  
16 C-L-A-M-M-E. I noticed that when your sign talks  
17 about cooperative conservation and we've talked a lot  
18 about this, but I guess when I looked at the card  
19 that you gave us and we looked at the bottom two  
20 questions that are down there, there's not been much  
21 discussed about the actual entity that holds the  
22 assets that everybody wants: the property owner, the  
23 landowner. I happen to be one of those. I happen to  
24 have a couple of duck ponds on my farm because I like

25 to hunt ducks, so you just plug up a tile and let the  
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1 water stand there.

2 But we've also talked about what, you know,  
3 reasonable businessmen would do. Well, you know,  
4 when government payments for conservation reserves  
5 and stream setbacks and all this is something like 60  
6 to 80 dollars an acre, maybe as high as 120, when  
7 cashed to 150, it's not going to encourage a  
8 businessperson to give up 50 or 75 dollars when  
9 that's out there. So I think that one has to look at  
10 the combination of this.

11 And I guess my other concern would be, as I  
12 listen to the people here, I don't know how many  
13 people here commenting actually have these assets.  
14 So my question to you is how are you developing your  
15 conservation -- or cooperative conservation with the  
16 people that I don't believe are here at this meeting,  
17 people that have many of the assets that you would  
18 like to have?

19 MS. SCARLETT: Working with landowners is a  
20 critical component of cooperative conservation. The  
21 term cooperative really is suggestive of the idea  
22 that there are many players and that we need to work  
23 together. And those are public and public. For  
24 example, us and Department of Agriculture, or us and  
25 the states, us and tribes. But, also, cooperation

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1 implies working very closely with landowners,  
2 nonprofit organizations, and others.

3 What we have done at Interior to really amplify  
4 that focus is to significantly enhance several  
5 programs that we have that are specifically directed  
6 at working voluntarily with landowners. We have a  
7 landowner incentive program. It is a grant program  
8 that provides money to states and then from states to  
9 landowners for specific on-the-ground projects. We  
10 have a private stewardship grant program in which  
11 individual landowners directly can apply to us if  
12 they want to do some sort of habitat or wildlife  
13 protection project.

14 We have a great program. I think one of the  
15 best ever invented in the federal government. And  
16 that is our Fish and Wildlife program whereby our  
17 Fish and Wildlife Service provides technical  
18 expertise and other resources to work with landowners  
19 specifically on things like planting of native  
20 warm-season grasses and any number of other  
21 endeavors.

22 Let me just describe one such endeavor to give  
23 you a sense of the richness and fullness of these  
24 landowner efforts. In western Pennsylvania, a place  
25 called Buffalo Creek, there are dairy farmers and

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1 beef cattle farmers. I guess they're called farmers  
2 in the East and rangers in the West. Miles and miles  
3 of land there in western Pennsylvania, some of it

4 also cropland, but mostly dairy and beef.

5 And over the years, a lot of that land grazed  
6 right up to the stream banks and, therefore, some of  
7 the problems that one sees associated with that; that  
8 is, some erosion, loss of the shrubby overbrush that  
9 would have both prevented some sedimentation and  
10 erosion but also kept the waters cooler and,  
11 therefore, a good habitat for fish.

12 So working with those farmers with just a knock  
13 on the door and a handshake -- I mean very, very  
14 simple and 100 percent voluntary -- we've worked with  
15 them to identify places where it works for them to do  
16 some stream bank fencing. They actually determine  
17 the contours and so forth. The consequences of  
18 that -- and then also worked with them to re-create  
19 some vernal pools and replant some native warm-season  
20 grasses. Also they're putting up, in concert with  
21 Pheasants Forever, the various -- replanting some  
22 shrubbing sites, putting up bat boxes, barn owl  
23 boxes, and wood duck boxes, a whole host of other  
24 nesting sites.

25 As a consequence of this, we now have hundreds  
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1 of miles where the shrubs and vegetation along the  
2 streams are regenerating. That provides ground  
3 nesting habitat for birds and other species. We're  
4 seeing the return of a lot of fish into the streams  
5 because the water is cooling and the water quality is  
6 better.

7 But for the farmer, what's in it for him or her?  
8 What the farmers are finding are two things. One,  
9 that the stream bank fencing actually allows them to  
10 do some rotation grazing in ways that they otherwise  
11 would not have been able to do. Secondly, that the  
12 planting of the warm-season grasses is not in their  
13 highly-productive fields of alfalfa but in areas  
14 where the alfalfa didn't do well. It actually  
15 provides additional forage that they otherwise would  
16 not have had. And then, third, they're finding that  
17 they have less waterborne disease that's transmitted,  
18 as the cattle are now off the streams and drinking  
19 out of spring-fed tanks.

20 So they're finding less disease transmission in  
21 the cows. In fact, increased calving, because they  
22 have less spontaneous abortions from disease that's  
23 often passed through the water. So good for the  
24 farmer, good for the land, and good for the critters.  
25 All of it done in a voluntary way with the landowners

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1 front and center stage, but along with groups like  
2 Ducks Unlimited, Trout Unlimited, Pheasants Forever,  
3 Bats Unlimited, and many other organizations, our  
4 Fish and Wildlife Service.

5 MR. HALL: The other part of your question had  
6 to do with the incentive payments. And when I think  
7 of CRP and WRP and Farm and Ranch Security and all  
8 those different programs that NRCS has, I see those

9 as rental payments. These are not subsidies going to  
10 the landowners. The landowner provides the land,  
11 pays the taxes, and the American public is getting  
12 the benefit for that.

13 And your question is the heart of the debate  
14 over the next Farm Bill. The payments were  
15 established about ten years ago and they're talking  
16 about leaving the payments at the same price. And it  
17 has created a great deal of consternation about the  
18 people who are enrolled in that program or those  
19 programs.

20 Because if a farmer or ranger can't, as you  
21 talked about, afford to give up 50 or 75 more dollars  
22 per acre, then they'll turn it back. And we've heard  
23 estimates as high as 28 million acres in CRP going  
24 back out into tilled land instead of the good  
25 productive wildlife habitat that the landowner wants

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1 to see. So what you really did is you framed the  
2 debate that's going on in the Farm Bill right now  
3 about adequate payments over a ten-year change in  
4 cost of living.

5 MR. CASE: Final question.

6 MS. EVANS: My name is Kari, K-A-R-I, last name  
7 Evans. I actually have a comment instead of a  
8 question, a couple of comments. I'm here from  
9 Governor Daniels' office. I'm his policy director  
10 for environment and natural resources. Just pulling  
11 from some of the questions and comments that were  
12 made, I want to let people know about a couple of  
13 state programs.

14 First of all, several of you may have had the  
15 opportunity to hear about the recent announcement  
16 from Governor Daniels and Lieutenant Governor  
17 Skillman about our homegrown energy plan. Besides  
18 some of the things like biodiesel and ethanol plants,  
19 clean coal technology, and things like that, but very  
20 important to that plan is conservation. And what I  
21 would do is encourage anybody that hasn't already  
22 done it to take a look at that plan. You can get it  
23 at our Access Indiana website. It's a great thing to  
24 look through. We've got much more work to do on it,  
25 but that sets the path forward.

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1 Another important component of that plan is  
2 waste-to-energy. Our energy office has been working  
3 closely with Department of Agriculture and the  
4 Department of Environmental Management on really  
5 encouraging and doing everything we can from an  
6 incentive perspective to push waste-to-energy,  
7 whether it's manure from farming operations that can  
8 be used to really generate energy or new  
9 technologies, such as waste energy from medical  
10 waste, which is something that we certainly want to  
11 be careful with how we get rid of it, but there are  
12 some good opportunities there.

13 I also wanted to address the comment that was

14 made or the question that was raised about tires.  
15 There are really two issues there. One is proper  
16 collection. That is something that is always going  
17 to be a struggle in dealing with individual vehicle  
18 owners and how they choose to dispose of their tires  
19 once they've taken them off of their cars. I think  
20 that we've had many successful programs at local  
21 levels to encourage people to bring their tires in.  
22 The other issue is recycling. I will tell you  
23 that this is something that the General Assembly is  
24 studying over the summer, environmental quality  
25 service, so we may have more to come from them on

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1 that issue. Thank you.

2 MR. CASE: Thank you. Before I turn it back  
3 over to Deputy Secretary Scarlett and Director Hall,  
4 a few people to thank. First of all, thank the  
5 Service folks, George Parham and Scott Pruitt  
6 particularly, that have put together all of the  
7 logistics for all of this. I appreciate all the  
8 help. It is a lot of work. Secondly, the folks here  
9 at the convention center. It's a great facility and  
10 thank you for helping put everything together. Tavi  
11 for your work, for many straight hours, two and a  
12 half straight hours without a break; and Tim and  
13 Tammy over there for their help with the sign  
14 interpretation. And, finally, thank you for taking  
15 the time out of your Saturday. With that, I'd like  
16 to turn it back over to Lynn.

17 MS. SCARLETT: Thank you. And I will extend  
18 also one additional word of thanks, and that's to  
19 you, Dave, for your efforts here to keep us all on  
20 track. Well, thank you all for coming. I really,  
21 really appreciated the attentiveness, the comments,  
22 the ideas that all of you have put forth. We took  
23 notes. Many of the questions that -- many of the  
24 folks that come to those sessions have been asking  
25 us, Well, what's next? What are you going to do with

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1 all that you hear?

2 What we do plan to do are several things.  
3 First, all of the information provided, the  
4 transcripts that are being provided, as well as  
5 written comments, we will find a way to make those  
6 publicly available, whether it's through our websites  
7 or some other mechanisms. We're still working that  
8 out, but we do intend to be as transparent as we  
9 possibly can be to make sure that you can see not  
10 only what was said here but also what was said at the  
11 23 other locations across the country.

12 Secondly, working with our facilitator, Dave and  
13 his team, they will be actually going through the  
14 entire set of concepts that have been presented and  
15 the comments presented and sorting them into  
16 categories. Obviously, we hear different things.  
17 Some about water issues. Some about fire and forest.  
18 Some about agriculture. They will be sorting those



19 issues for us and then also providing a summary.  
20 We will then take a look at all that, and in  
21 Washington, at a senior policy level, try to identify  
22 key priorities and common themes that surfaced  
23 repeatedly, things that -- specific actions that  
24 might have been proposed which we think are feasible  
25 and for which the time might be ripe. And then we

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1 will be moving forward with those ideas and  
2 proposals. Some of them may be administrative. Some  
3 of them may be funding. Some of them may be policy  
4 ideas.

5 We do also have four legislative packets that  
6 we're working on on cooperative conservation.  
7 Department of Agriculture has a packet. We have one,  
8 Interior. EPA has one that they have already  
9 actually sent to the Congress. And then there's one  
10 more package. The one that we have in Interior is  
11 focused on enhancing our cooperative conservation  
12 grant programs and does speak to all of the things  
13 that were described here. Our legislative proposal,  
14 for example, takes the state wildlife grants and  
15 suggests that those actually become a platform from  
16 which to make priority decisions on the allocation of  
17 some of our grants so that the grants aren't just  
18 helter-skelter or willy-nilly or disconnected, but  
19 they actually link to priorities in the state plan.

20 That's one of the ideas that we had as a  
21 possible element of legislation we might set forth on  
22 the Hill. As all of you know, when you get up to the  
23 Hill, there's a lot of cooks in the kitchen and we  
24 never know what will come out in the end, but we  
25 certainly have that policy package that we're working

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1 on. That's what is going to happen. You can all  
2 expect to be able to see the information, and  
3 hopefully we will come out with some administrative  
4 policy and funding ideas that serve us from these  
5 suggestions. So your voices are heard. We really  
6 appreciate it. And then I thank you very much and  
7 also extend again my thanks to Fish and Wildlife  
8 Service, who have been so great in helping to put  
9 this all together on the ground.

10 MR. HALL: I can't add anything to that other  
11 than just to say thank you. Thank you for everything  
12 you do every day for natural resources and  
13 conservation. We really do appreciate your support.

14 MR. CASE: Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16

17 (Meeting Adjourned.)

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1     STATE OF INDIANA     )  
                                      )SS:  
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CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER

5  
6             I, Tavi L. Fraga, RPR, a Notary Public in  
and for the County of Boone, State of Indiana at  
7 large, do hereby certify that I did stenographically  
report the foregoing meeting and that the foregoing  
8 transcript is a true and accurate record to the best  
of my ability;  
9

10            I do further certify that I am a  
disinterested person in matter; that I am not a  
relative or attorney of any of the parties, or  
11 otherwise interested in the event of this action, and  
am not in the employ of the attorneys for either  
12 party.

13            IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my  
hand and affixed my notarial seal this 20th day of  
14 September, 2006.  
15  
16  
17

18                         Tavi L. Fraga, RPR  
Notary Public, Stenograph Reporter  
State of Indiana, County of Boone  
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My Commission Expires:  
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